

focus on sunday

The presence of God in our world is not always visible and his kingdom grows slowly. We are invited to grow in the confidence that God is always with us, even in the face of trials and evils.



Some of the best things in life happen slowly --- among them, birth, love, knowledge, friendships. Faith is another slow growth. Jesus knows this and he knows that his kingdom on earth takes time. He knew himself that even his closest disciples took time to grasp the meaning of his life, death, and resurrection.

Parents know the same as they watch children growing up, even when they make mistakes. Some growth cannot be hurried. Faith growth is affected by all growth – the events of life in many ways effect the growth of our faith, or its decline. After a sudden bereavement one person said, ‘all I have now is God’. Another never went near God in the similar situation.

Not all seed sown flourishes; some mixes with bad and all is well in the end; another seed becomes a huge tree. Good seed can be thrown into bad soil.

In bad times we need to be confident in still sowing the seed of Christ –in bad times for the Church, for state and all our trusted institutions. Christ remains firm for us, the rock. We want to sow the seeds of justice, peace, and compassionate love in our land, and this is the centre of the gospel. The seed of God’s love is now sown through God’s people.

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger

Jesus' Story Fr. Liam Hickey

Jesus liked looking at farmers sowing seeds. It reminded Him of all the different people that The Father will welcome to The Feast of Heaven. It will be like a birthday party that never ends. God has made us for love and friendship. When we show love and make friendships we are in God’s Love and we help to make a better world.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON
O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

GREETING
In the name of the FatherAmen.
The Lord be with you. *And with your spirit.*

PENITENTIAL ACT
Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God’s kingdom: Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*
You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness: Christ, have mercy. *Christ, have mercy.*
You will come in glory with salvation for your people: Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*
May almighty God have mercy on us...

THE GLORIA
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER
O God, strength of those who hope in you, graciously hear our pleas, and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing, grant us always the help of your grace, that in following your commands we may please you by our resolve and our deeds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Ezekiel 17:22 - 24*
A reading from the prophet Ezekiel
The Lord says this: ‘From the top of the cedar, from the highest branch I will take a shoot and plant it myself on a very high mountain. I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel. It will sprout branches and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Every kind of bird will live beneath it, every winged creature rest in the shade of its branches. And every tree of the field will learn that I, the Lord, am the one who stunts tall trees and makes the low ones grow, who withers green trees and makes the withered green.

I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.’
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
P.S. 91: 2-3.13-16

- R. It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.**
1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night. **(R)**
 2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar. **(R)**
 3. Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God, still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green, to proclaim that the Lord is just. In him, my rock, there is no wrong. **(R)**

SECOND READING
2 Corinthians 5:6 -10
A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

We are always full of confidence when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight - we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia!
The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower; whoever finds this seed will remain for ever. Alleluia!
GOSPEL *Mark 4:26 - 34*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Jesus said to the crowds, ‘This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time; he starts to reap because the harvest has come’. He also said, ‘What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big

branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.’ Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.
NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, All bow for following three lines: and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters,.....
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS
O God, who in the offerings presented here provide for the twofold needs of human nature, nourishing us with food and renewing us with your Sacrament, grant, we pray, that the sustenance they provide may not fail us in body or in spirit. Through Christ our Lord.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right and just.

SANCTUS
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION
The mystery of faith.
When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION
Behold the Lamb of God,
Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
As this reception of your Holy Communion, O Lord, foreshadows the union of the faithful in you, so may it bring about unity in your Church.
Through Christ our Lord.

CONCLUDING RITE
The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

Be near to those who call on you, O Lord, and graciously grant your protection to all who place their hope in your mercy, that they may remain faithful in holiness of life and, having enough for their needs in this world, they may be made full heirs of your promise for eternity.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**
Go in peace,
Thanks be to God.