

Fifteenth Sunday | Year A

July 16th, 2023 (Isa 55:10-11 | Romans 8:18-23 | Matthew 13:1-23)

Isaiah reflects that God's grace that comes down to the earth will not return to him void, but has to multiply itself and become abundant for others. Let us turn to God with our petitions.

1/ The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest. For all peoples and nations that fear God. We pray that the faithful, led by Pope Francis and spiritual leaders, may learn to become the hearers of God's word and yield abundant harvests. Let us pray.

2/ Paul believes that Christians are called to downplay the sufferings of this age, and to yearn for the glory of the revelation of God in the age to come. For those who are living in despair. We pray that they may become Christlike in their sufferings and learn to hope for everything that is glorious in the life with God. Let us pray.

3/ The Parable of the Seed and the Sower speaks about the hearts of the ones who listen to God's word. Some hear and act accordingly, thus bear fruit. Others listen but do not act, thus yield no fruit. For those who walk aimlessly in this world. We pray that they may encounter a morally good Christian and turn to God. Let us pray.

4/ In the same parable, Jesus hints that the morally good Christians are like those whose lives are blessed abundantly. Their deeds bore fruit in this life and their souls now rest in heaven. For our sisters and brothers who, in life, behaved and acted in Christlike manners, but have now departed from us. We pray that God grant them repose in heaven. Today we remember **[at 4:30 PM]** Betty and Sonny Hardesty, Ken Hager Family, and Joyce Ann Brown O'Leary; **[at 10:00 AM]** James and Virginia Wilkins, and Joyce Ann Brown O'Leary. Let us pray.

God in highest heaven, let the light of your truth guide us to your kingdom through a world filled with lights contrary to your radiance. Christian is the name we glory in. May your love make us what you have called us to be. We pray this in the name of Jesus our Lord.