



Hosanna



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SUNDAY LITURGY

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16TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Year A

INTRODUCTION

Jesus speaks about the weed and the wheat. He speaks the parable of the wheat and the weed to signify the life in the society. Weed in the field is unavoidable. They grow freely. They grow faster. They grow in chain. A small piece of a root is enough for the weed to grow. On the contrary, the wheat has a lot of difficulties to grow. It grows slow but yields fruit. Both the weed and the wheat exist in the heart of man. Or the weed and the wheat can represent man independently. The end of the story is that the wheat is saved the weed is burnt. In other words, the evil will be destroyed at the end.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good. (Ps 53:6, 8)

COLLECT

Show favour, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

This passage sings the glories of our God. He cares for everyone. His strength is His Wisdom. At last, He is merciful.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

There is no other god besides thee, whose care is for all men, to whom thou shouldst prove that thou hast not judged unjustly. For thy strength is the source of righteousness, and thy sovereignty over all causes thee to spare all. For thou dost show thy strength when men doubt the completeness of thy power, and dost rebuke any insolence among those who know it. Thou who art sovereign in strength dost judge with mildness, and with great forbearance thou dost govern us; for thou hast power to act whenever thou dost choose. Through such works thou hast taught thy people that the righteous man must be kind, and thou hast filled thy sons with good hope, because thou givest repentance for sins.

Responsorial Psalm (85)

R/ O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call. Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my voice.

R/ O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

All the nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name. O Lord: for you are great and do marvellous deeds, you who alone are God.

R/ O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

But you, God of mercy and compassion, slow to anger, O Lord, abounding in love and truth, turn and take pity on me.

R/ O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

SECOND READING

The second reading speaks about the advent of the Spirit in us. The Spirit dwells in us. The Spirit inspires us to discern things according to the will of God. The Spirit of God will help us to know the will of God and make fruitful prayers.

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. And he who searches the hearts of men knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercede for the saints according to the will of God.

ALLELUIA Eph 1:17

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew 13:24-43

Jesus put a parable before the crowd saying, "The Kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed

good seed in his field; but while men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the householder came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then has it weeds?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he said, 'No; lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn'."

Another parable he put before them, saying, "The Kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till it was all leavened."

All this Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed he said nothing to them without a parable. This was to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world."

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "He who sows the good seed is the Son of man; the field is the world, and the good seed means

the sons of the kingdom; the weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and throw them into the furnace of fire; there men will weep and gnash their teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Dear Friends, God has given us the spirit of wisdom and knowledge. He inspires us to know what is pleasing to God. With the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, let us put forth our petitions for the church.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

1. Lord, bless our Pope Francis, Archbishop Bernard Moras, all the Bishops and all the ministers of the church to be like yeast in this world to draw many more souls to you by their ministry. *Let us pray.*

2. Lord, bless all the families to get the inspiration from the Holy family and live sacred and exemplary family life in the society. *Let us pray.*

3. Lord, grant peace among the nations that the world leaders may try to establish a society where there is peace and joy. *Let us pray.*

4. Lord, bless the single parents. Be their source of strength and courage to fulfill the responsibilities of the parents in upbringing their children. *Let us pray.*

Celebrant: Lord, bless us and our families to live a holy family living.

We surrender all our difficulties, sufferings, failures and sicknesses. Bless us that we may experience your constant guidance. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

O God, who in the one perfect sacrifice brought to completion varied offerings of the law, accept, we pray, this sacrifice from your faithful servants and make it holy, as you blessed the gifts of Abel, so that what each has offered to the honour of your majesty may benefit the salvation of all. Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE VIII (ORDINARY)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For, when your children were scattered afar by sin, through the Blood of your Son and the power of the Spirit, you gathered them again to yourself, that a people, formed as one by the unity of the Trinity, made the body of Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit, might, to the praise of your manifold wisdom, be manifest as the Church.

And so, in company with the choirs of Angels, we praise you, and with joy we proclaim:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him. (Ps 110:4-5)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life. Through Christ our Lord.

REFLECTION

Jesus speaks to the people through parables. He was very much appreciated for proclaiming the word through the parables. The People said that Jesus is preaching with authority. The authority is established when the speaker is convinced of what he speaks. Jesus was sure of every word that he spoke. He used parables to convey the message to the people. In these parables, he used simple concepts. When he said about the parable of the seed, sower, plant, and trees, it is easy to understand for the farmers and those engaged with agriculture. When he spoke about the sheep and the shepherd, the shepherds easily understood the message. When he spoke about net and the fish, it was easy for the fishermen. Likewise, Jesus was more meaningful when he compared these things in his preaching and teaching. The people were drawn to Jesus because they understood what he spoke. They could take lessons for their life. Today's gospel speaks about the kingdom of God. Let us take one of the parables spoken today for our reflections. The parable of the mustard seed. It has simple things to understand in a greater way. The mustard seed is the smallest of all seeds. 'The smallest', 'the last', 'the lost' servant, child, all these words are important words in the

preaching of Jesus. The smallest means humility and simple. The Lord wants his disciples to be humble. Because he has humbled himself to become a man. He was born in a manger, lived poor, borrowed things even for his ministry. He borrowed fish and bread, likewise he became humble to embrace and give divine things to human. He appreciated the humble prayer of the publican. He did not really feel happy about the prayer of the Pharisee. 'The smallest' is the first quality to become or participate in the kingdom. That is the reason why Jesus compared the mustard seed to the kingdom of God. Secondly, the smallest become the greatest. The smallest seed becomes a huge shroud. The mustard plant is the weakest of all plants. It is not strong. But Jesus says it becomes the greatest. Every smallest can have the potency to become the greatest with the mercy of God. Thirdly, the branches of this smallest seed become life giving place for so many birds of the sky. It accommodates so many. It is contrary to imagine for the mustard seed to grow strong and accommodate the birds of the sky. All these are possible only with the mercy of God. Jesus gave this parable to tell us that we are weak and fragile. If we become smallest, God will make us the greatest.

- Rev. Fr. Arockiaswamy Sebastian

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