



Prayer of the Day

Richly inspire us, O Lord, to consider and accomplish what you see is good. For we know that we cannot live without you, but that with you, we shall prevail. And so, we pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-14*

[You are to be praised, O | God, in Zion;*

to you shall vows be performed | in Jerusalem.

²**To you that hear prayer shall | all flesh come,*
because of | their transgressions.**

³Our sins are strong- | er than we are,*
but you will | blot them out.

⁴**Happy are they whom you choose
and draw to your | courts to dwell there!***
**they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house,
by the holiness | of your temple.**

⁵Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,
O God of | our salvation,*

O Hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the seas that are | far away.

⁶**You make fast the mountains | by your power;***
they are girded a- | bout with might.

⁷You still the roaring | of the seas,*
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor | of the peoples.

⁸**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth
will tremble at your | marvelous signs;***
you make the dawn and the dusk to | sing for joy.]

⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly;
you make it | very plenteous;*
the river of God is | full of water.

¹⁰**You pre- | pare the grain,*
for so you provide | for the earth.**

¹¹You drench the furrows and smooth | out the ridges;*
with heavy rain you soften the ground and | bless its increase.

¹²**You crown the year | with your goodness,*
and your paths over- | flow with plenty.**

¹³May the fields of the wilderness be | rich for grazing,*
and the hills be | clothed with joy.

¹⁴**May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak them- | selves with grain;***
let them shout for | joy and sing.

Second Reading: Romans 8:12-17

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear.”

¹⁸{Jesus said to the disciples,} “Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Lessons for Next Week: Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 119:57-64;
Romans 8:18-27; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43