



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Isaiah 55:10-11

What does this reading suggest about how we should receive and respond to the Word of God?

Jesus is the Word made flesh; what is revealed about Christ's nature and mission in comparing Him to fertilizing and fruitful rain and snow?

In what ways do you see God's Word accomplishing His will in your life? Why might it be difficult to recognize such moments?

Psalm 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14

What does it look like for our hearts to be "good ground" for the seed of God's Word and Spirit?

The Psalmist blesses the Lord, "thus have you prepared the land." How has God prepared you for Himself? Where do you see Him blessing the yield in your life?

Romans 8:18-23

At what times has the promise of God's glory completely changed your perspective on present sufferings? What areas of struggle do you still need to offer up to God for His eternal glory?

We Catholics "have the firstfruits of the Spirit." Even so, we groan in labor pains with all of creation. How are we called to bear our struggles differently in light of what we await on the other side of these pains?

Collect

O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray,
so that they may return to the right path,
give all who for the faith they profess
are accounted Christians
the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the
name of Christ
and to strive after all that does it honor.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever

Gospel

Matthew 13:1-23

What can we better practice to cultivate hearts of "rich soil" with which we hear and understand the Word of God?

Many have longed to hear and receive what we do in the Word of God and in the Sacraments, especially in the Eucharist. How does this influence your perspective on our mission as Catholic Christians? How can you better receive and appreciate this fullness of Truth that Christ has revealed to us?

With the guidance of the Spirit, consider which 'type of ground' is prevalent in your life that God wishes to better prepare to receive His Word and Grace—the path where the Evil One steals away the seed; the rocky ground with little depth for the seed to take root; or the thorns of worldly anxieties and temptations.