



## The Parable of the Sower

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. <sup>2</sup> Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup> Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. <sup>9</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. <sup>20</sup> The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. <sup>21</sup> But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. <sup>22</sup> The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. <sup>23</sup> But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

(Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23)

## Psalm 65

Praise awaits you, our God, in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled.

<sup>2</sup>You who answer prayer, to you all people will come.

<sup>3</sup>When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions.

<sup>4</sup>Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts!

We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.

<sup>5</sup>You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Saviour, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas,

<sup>6</sup>who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength, who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves,

and the turmoil of the nations. <sup>8</sup>The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy. <sup>9</sup>You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly.

The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain,

for so you have ordained it. <sup>10</sup>You drench its furrows and level its ridges;

you soften it with showers and bless its crops. <sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance. <sup>12</sup>The grasslands of the

wilderness overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness. <sup>13</sup>The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy

and sing. Amen

Let us pray,

Heavenly Father, may your words of truth take root in our hearts and grow to rich maturity. May we hear your will for us and act upon it; may we take seriously our responsibility to encourage and nurture one another in faith at every age and every stage.

Heavenly Father, the rain and sunshine, the growing and harvesting, sing to us of your faithful love, and we offer you our thankful praise for all your gifts to us.

Merciful Father, accept this prayer for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen