

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

For as the rain and the snow come down from
 heaven,
 and do not return there until they have watered
 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 succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
¹²For you shall go out in joy,
 and be led back in peace;
 the mountains and the hills before you shall burst
 into song,
 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 be to the LORD for a memorial,
 for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Psalms 65:[1-8] 9-13

SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those
 who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of
 life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of
 sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law,
 weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his
 own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal
 with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that
 the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled
 in us, who walk not according to the flesh but ac-
 cording to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live accord-
 ing to the flesh set their minds on the things of
 the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit
 set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set
 the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind
 on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the
 mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it
 does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot,
⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the
 Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone
 who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not be-
 long to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the
 body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because
 of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised
 Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised
 Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal
 bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat
 beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around
 him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the
 whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them
 many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower
 went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell
 on the path, and the birds came and ate them up.
⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did
 not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly,
 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 brought forth
 grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.
⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸"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 is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on
 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 such a person has no root,
 but endures only for a while, and when trouble or
 persecution arises on account of the word, that per-
 son immediately 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 lure of wealth
 choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for
 what was sown on good soil, this is the one who
 hears the word and understands it, who indeed
 bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in
 another sixty, and in another thirty."

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 44:6-8 or Wisdom 12:13, 16-19; Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

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