

JULY 16, 2017
6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
PROPER 10A

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

THE LESSON

Isaiah 55:10-13

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,
so 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.

For 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.
Instead 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.

PSALM 65:1, 5-14

- All You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
 to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.
- I Awesome 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.
- II You make fast the mountains by your power;
 they are girded about with might.
- I You still the roaring of the seas,
 the roaring of their waves,
 and the clamor of the peoples.
- II 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.]
- I You visit the earth and water it abundantly;
 you make it very plenteous;
 the river of God is full of water.
- II You prepare the grain,
 for so you provide for the earth.
- I You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
 with heavy rain you soften the ground
 and bless its increase.
- II You crown the year with your goodness,
 and your paths overflow with plenty.
- I May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
 and the hills be clothed with joy.
- II May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
 and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;
 let them shout for joy and sing.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When 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. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As 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. But 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."