



Gospel

Matthew 13:24-30 (shorter form) or
Matthew 13:24-43 (longer form)

Jesus proposed another parable to the
crowds, saying:

“The kingdom of heaven may be likened
to a man
who sowed good seed in his field.
While everyone was asleep his enemy
came
and sowed weeds all through the wheat,
and then went off.

When the crop grew and bore fruit, the
weeds appeared as well.

The slaves of the householder came to
him and said,

‘Master, did you not sow good seed in
your field?’

Where have the weeds come from?’

He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’

His slaves said to him, ‘Do you want us to
go and pull them up?’

He replied, ‘No, if you pull up the weeds
you might uproot the wheat along with
them.

Let them grow together until harvest;
then at harvest time I will say to the
harvesters,

“First collect the weeds and tie them in
bundles for burning;
but gather the wheat into my barn.””

Readings for the week:

16th Sunday

in Ord. Time
Wis 12:13, 16-19
Ps 86:5-6, 9-10,
15-16
Rom 8:26-27
Matt 13:24-43 or
13:24-30

Monday

Exod 14:5-18
Exod 15:1bc-2,
3-4, 5-6
Matt 12:38-42

Tuesday

**St. James,
Apostle**
2 Cor 4:7-15
Ps 126:1bc-2ab,
2cd-3, 4-5, 6
Matt 20:20-28

Wednesday

Exod 16:1-5, 9-15
Ps 78:18-19,
23-24, 25-26,
27-28
Matt 13:1-9

Thursday

Exod 19:1-2, 9-11,
16-20b
Dan 3:52, 53, 54,
55, 56
Matt 13:10-17

Friday

Exod 20:1-17
Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11
Matt 13:18-23

Saturday

Exod 24:3-8
Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6,
14-15
John 11:19-27 or
Luke 10:38-42

17th Sunday

in Ord. Time
1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12
Ps 119:57, 72,
76-77, 127-128,
129-130
Rom 8:28-30
Matt 13:44-52 or
13:44-46



Opening Prayer

Show favor, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands. 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. **Amen.**

Reflecting on Living the Gospel

In this Sunday's gospel, Jesus is a storyteller who uses vivid images to teach his listeners.

In the first of the three parables, an enemy has overseeded the wheat with weeds. If it is harvested and milled with the wheat, the flour will be spoiled. But the harvest master has a shrewd confidence in the ability of his wheat crop to survive entangled among the weeds. He tells his slaves to wait until the harvest time when the reapers will more easily distinguish the weeds from the wheat.

The central meaning of the parable is that the kingdom of God takes root in imperfect communities of "wheat and weeds," and in both an imperfect church and world. Unbridled zeal that wants to create a pure and perfect community becomes intolerant fanaticism. The leaders of a Christian community need the discernment of the Spirit of Jesus to know when and how to emphasize patience and restraint, or warning and judgment.

The short parable of the mustard seed provides encouragement for the Christian community struggling with its small beginnings or, like today's church, faced in some places with the diminution of what once was "big," such as priestly and religious vocations or well-attended Masses. For the reign of the kingdom, says Jesus, small seeds are enough to grow into welcoming bushes where people can rest and nest.

Finally, Jesus suggests that God is also like a woman with hands in the flour, mixing in "three measures of wheat flour," enough for a huge, extravagant loaf! This is Matthew's only parable with a female image of God. This parable not only challenges us to consider the feminine aspects of God's nature, but also to reflect on the ministry of women in the growth of the kingdom, and to hope for more and more leavening as women and men mix together in leadership roles.

Closing Prayer

Loving God, thank you for the gift of this day and the opportunity to grow in relationship with you. May the parable of the mustard seed give us hope in our daily endeavors so to remain faithful to your gospel and the way of discipleship. **Amen.**

For Reflection:

• God cares for us as a farmer cares for the crop. How do you experience God's care in your life? What is the fruit that your life is bearing?

Suggestions for group and individual use:

1. Pray aloud the "Opening Prayer" (in *The Roman Missal* called the "collect").
2. One person read aloud the gospel.
3. Each read prayerfully "Reflecting on Living the Gospel" and spend some time in personal prayer.
4. Share together responses to "For Reflection."
5. Pray the "Closing Prayers."

The readings from the *Lectionary for Mass* copyright © 2001, 1998, 1992, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.

Excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Living Liturgy™ Sunday Bulletin. Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota 56321. © 2023 by Order of Saint Benedict www.litpress.org 1-800-858-5450

Announcements
07/22/23 to 07/23/23

Financials: 07/10/23 to 07/16/23

Weekly Collection Goal \$2400	Total 2291.00 Short \$109.00	
In Church	\$	1626.00
Mail In	\$	150.00
OnLine Giving	\$	515.00

Bread Report from Kathy Texeira ~

We were blessed with 25 volunteers who helped us bake 424 loaves of sweet bread. Thank you for your help. You truly made the load lighter!

Our Net Profit including miscellaneous donations: \$2,012.85.

Our next bread day is Tuesday, August 15. Thank you all for your continued support in our monthly fundraising effort!

School supplies distribution this weekend after Sunday Mass, in the Hall.

Wednesday, July 26th – Mass @ Hale Makua Wailuku at 9:30 a.m. Attendees must be vaccinated and wear masks.

OHANA IN CHRIST FINAL PROGRESS REPORT through June 30th-St. Ann Goal \$6,625 – Final Collection total was \$6,724 @ 101%. Thanks be to God and Mahalo for your kokua!

Have a Blessed Week!