

# For Our Household: Sowers of God's Word

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## CALL TO THE FEAST

**All:** In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

*(You may begin by singing a song together.)*

**Leader:** It is our desire and response to your love that brings us to give you thanks today. Creator God, your bountiful gifts we come to know both on earth and in the heavens. Your gifts sustain us both physically and spiritually, as individuals and in community

**Leader:** Your Word created the world.

**All:** Thank you, Source of Life!

**Leader:** We see Your design and Your harmony in Creation as the fruit of your Word.

**All:** Thank you, Incarnating Word!

**Leader:** You gave us the same Word made flesh as Mediator.

**All:** Thank you, Word Made Flesh!

**Leader:** Jesus has spoken Your words to us and called us to follow him.

**All:** Thank You for Your call!

**Leader:** Jesus is the way that leads us to You.

**All:** Thank You for walking with us!

**Leader:** Jesus is the truth that sets us free.

**All:** Thank You for opening our eyes to see You!

**Leader:** Jesus is the life that fills us with gladness.

**All:** Thank You, Source of Life!

**Leader:** Through Jesus You continue to gather people of all nations, races, tribes and cultures.

**All:** Open our eyes to see Your face in everyone we encounter!

**Leader:** You made all of us into one family for the glory of your name.

**All:** Thank you for our family!

**Leader:** You redeemed all of us by the Blood of his Cross.

**All:** May our witness heal others!

**Leader:** You signed us with the seal of the Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation

**All:** as well as in every moment You break into our awareness and we are inspired to respond to other people's needs as You would. Amen!

## BREAKING OPEN THE WORD:

*Today's Gospel is found in [Matthew 13:1-23 or 13:1-9](#). For today's complete Readings [click here](#). Each of the Readings can be read or simply read the Gospel.*

*While someone reads the Scripture(s), listen well. Be aware of the image being painted, or the story being told. Does the story or the image call to mind anything similar in your own life or experience?*

*After the reading, share your impressions of the reading (s) with each other:*

- ✓ How often does it happen that you are looking all over the place for something only to have walked by it a dozen times? Glasses on your face! Keys are in the "other" pocket. ...*
- ✓ Have you ever sown seed in a garden – either for vegetables or flowers? Do all seeds come up at once? Do all the plants bear their vegetables or fruit at the same time? How have you learned to know "when it is time" to harvest?*
- ✓ What "life lesson," or simply some information you have picked up on the way, helped you respond to someone else's question or need?*

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- ✓ *When you have been the “new student at school” or the “new person on the block,” who has helped you figure out where to go? Some “neighbors” were probably helpful to learn the ropes. Some probably less so. Any stories about that?*
- ✓ *When someone else was “new,” what was your response to their need?*
- ✓ *What connections can be made between Jesus' parable today and our learning and accompanying people around us?*

## SHARING THE FEAST

*The feast can be a meal or the sharing of loaf of bread (rice-cakes, chapati, naan, pita, tortilla, oatcakes, sweet bread, baguette, etc.) and a glass/cup (or individual glasses) of (wine, water, cider, grape juice).*

**All:** Creator God, Source of All Life, we gather in our household (*present to each other as well as at a distance*) to open our hearts to Your Word. We celebrate the Life, Teaching, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, Your Son. We open our lives to learn to walk in the way of Jesus.

We gather at our table to support each other and to be transformed as the disciples were.

We commit ourselves to be sowers of the Word which You have sown in us.

Recognize our desire to be one in You as we break the bread of your Word and the bread of our table. *The bread is now passed from one person to the next person and eaten together.*

Recognize that, as we drink (*water, wine, other*), we seek to quench our spiritual thirst by opening ourselves to your presence in one another. *Pass the drink now from one to the next person.*

## PRAYER OF THANKS AND PRAISE

**All:** We thank you for the leadership of Francisco our pope and for the pastoral ministry of (Arch)Bishop *N*.

**Leader:** Open their hearts and lives to be portals of Your compassion.

**All:** We ask your animation in the life and ministry of our pastor *N*, and the Deacon(s) *N, N*, who serve our larger faith community.

**Leader:** Nurture them as they nurture us.

**All:** We see you in and thank you for our family,

**Leader:** both near and far.

**Leader:** You teach us the value of community and what we hold in common for each other

**All:** in our friends and in our neighbors – people we know and people we are yet to meet.

**All:** May we learn to understand and respond to the signs of the times and live in the light of faith, **Leader:** being devoted in knowing and serving the Gospel.

**Leader:** By sharing the grief and pain of others, **All:** may we help heal division and strife.

**Leader:** By sharing the joy and hope of others, **All:** may we sow the good news of salvation.

**All:** We remember the people who have died in this pandemic.

**Leader:** May they be in your Peace.

**Leader:** For what else do we pray:

*Conclude with the Our Father.*

**Leader:** Peace be with you all!

**All:** In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!