

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:10–11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

The rain and the snow fall from the sky.
But they don't return without watering the earth
that produces seeds to plant and grain to eat.
And that's how it is with my words.
They don't return to me without doing everything I sent them to do.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 65:9, 11–12, 13

All: *The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.*

*Our God, you take care of the earth
and send rain to help the soil
grow all kinds of crops.
Your rivers never run dry,
and you prepare the earth
to produce much grain.*

All: *The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.*

*Wherever your footsteps
touch the earth,
a rich harvest is gathered.
Desert pastures blossom,
and mountains celebrate.*

All: *The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.*

*Meadows are filled
with sheep and goats;
valleys overflow with grain
and echo with joyful songs.*

All: *The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.*

SECOND READING

Romans 8:14–18

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Only those people who are led by God's Spirit are his children.
God's Spirit doesn't make us slaves who are afraid of him.
Instead, we become his children and call him our Father.
God's Spirit makes us sure that we are his children.

His Spirit lets us know that together with Christ
we will be given what God has promised.
We will also share in the glory of Christ,
because we have suffered with him.

I am sure that what we are suffering now
cannot compare with the glory that will be shown to us.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL
Matthew 13:1–9

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Jesus went out beside Lake Galilee,
where he sat down to teach.
Such large crowds gathered around him that he had to sit in a boat,
while the people stood on the shore.
Then he taught them many things by using stories.

He said: "A farmer went out to scatter seed in a field.
While the farmer was scattering the seed,
some of it fell along the road and was eaten by birds.
Other seeds fell on thin, rocky ground and quickly started growing
because the soil was not very deep.
But when the sun came up,
the plants were scorched and dried up,
because they did not have enough roots.

"Some other seeds fell where thorn bushes grew up
and choked the plants.
But a few seeds did fall on good ground
where the plants produced a hundred or sixty
or thirty times as much as was scattered.
"If you have ears, pay attention!"

The Gospel of the Lord.