

We Respond

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 64)

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

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

LECTOR: You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches. Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. **R.**

LECTOR: And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows, you level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth. **R.**

LECTOR: You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **R.**

LECTOR: The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks, the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. Alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young; by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

Or

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

TODAY'S READINGS Isaiah 55:10-11; Romans 8:18-23; Matthew 13:1-23

NEXT WEEK (16th Sunday Year A) Wis 12:13, 16-19; Ps 85; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43

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*Prelude to a
harvest*



12 July 2020 15th Sunday Year A

Following their mutiny against Captain Bligh on HMS Bounty in 1789, the mutineers and their Tahitian companions settled on Pitcairn Island, one of a group of four small volcanic islands that form the sole British overseas territory in the Pacific Ocean. Initially, they survived by farming and fishing, but 10 years later alcohol, murder and disease had taken the lives of most of the men.

About this time, two remaining mutineers, John Adams and Ned Young, came across the "Bounty's" bible in the bottom of an old chest. They began to read it, and the power of God's Word reached into the hearts of these hardened men and changed their lives forever. They began to teach the children from the bible until every person on the island converted to Christianity. Today, with a population of less than fifty, every person on Pitcairn Island is a Christian.

The bible has the power to transform our lives, but for it to be effective a heart and mind open to God's grace and message is required.

Isaiah writes to a people who are in exile, a people who have tried to find prosperity through political alliances and trust in the gods of other nations. The prophet calls them to repent of their misbegotten allegiances and trust in the God who is

enduringly faithful. God has not forgotten them and does not punish them but invites them through the image of rain and snow to be open to what God is offering.

The refrain of the responsorial psalm, "the seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest," is full of thanksgiving for blessings received from God which prepare the earth for a bountiful harvest.

The psalm serves as a prelude to the gospel parable of the sower.

We are familiar with many of these biblical texts for we have heard them season after season, but can they take root in our hearts and call us to new life? Can the Word of God open our hearts to reflect on the circumstances of our lives to hear the familiar texts in ways that speak to our hearts and transform our lives.

No one would have expected the conversion of Ned Young and John Adams, but there was an unexpected conversion that brought them to share the good news with the children of the island. In St Paul's words, can we experience a new creation in our lives that helps us to live in hope, witness to the Good News by our lives, and work for a better world for all.

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