

Blessed Trinity Catholic Community + Spirit of Christ Mission

Sixteenth Sunday Summer Ordinary Time A ~ July 19, 2026

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19; Psalm 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-15; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 13:24-30

Homily ~ Fr. Ed Hislop

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Last Sunday we met God scattering precious seed with an almost reckless abandon. A waste, some would say. Inept, others could complain.

Today the parable continues as Jesus images God again as a farmer unconcerned about the weeds sown by a “so-called” enemy. Let the weeds grow with the wheat. What you think is a weed, might be something else—even something, or someone, of beauty and wonder! Jesus’ sense of inclusion is amazing, and some would say “reckless,” like that farmer throwing seeds everywhere. The command, though, is clear: let all grow together. Things are not always as they seem!

Sometimes it is the undesired “truth” that some want to “pull up and get rid of,” those they consider to be weeds. We live in a time when many attempt to “rationalize inhumanity,” to blame or condemn as “weeds” those who appear to be different, from another land, race, way of life, or culture; to justify judgement, hatred and violence, while at the same time making a daring and false claim to be Christian. They are not.

The undesired truth is that God is never, never a part of such hate filled attitudes or actions. God’s vision is to give all people good ground for hope. *Those who are just must be kind!*

The vision of faith sees, not weeds, but a field of diverse hospitality.

Today we live in a time of radical judgement, while God’s vision of welcome and justice is mocked. People are treated like “weeds,” pulled up by the roots, “tied in bundles,” and cast into terrible places of imprisonment.

Inhumanity is rationalized day by day. This is happening. Innocent people are imprisoned and some are murdered, there or on the street in front of their home. Our land is filled with “*inexpressible groanings*.” We do not know how to pray as we ought. We are all being made into something and someone we should never want to be. Our goodness and our spirit as a people and a nation is being deliberately undermined.

The true dwelling place of God is never, and can never be, like that.

The place God lives is among the whole human family, scattered and planted in our own backyard in the fields of our living, where “*those who are just must be kind*,” where all are given “*good ground for hope*.”

The dwelling place of God is not controllable. The field where God lives grows like a weed! Christ lives where not expected and where often not wanted, intermingling with everything and everyone; crossing boundaries, fields, races, cultures, nations, friends and even enemies. His dwelling place is often quite bothersome! A place some would never want to be!

Growing like a weed—uncontrollable, crossing over boundaries and fences, challenging those who try to rationalize or justify inhumanity. It is Christ who these days prays with the psalmist: “*Hearken to our prayer and attend to the sound of our pleading, turn toward us, give us your strength*.” Teach us to scatter and plant the seeds of justice, kindness, hospitality, and peace with an almost reckless abandon.

“Planting” is a lot like “pleading,” as we heard the psalmist sing today. Pleading with a consistent kindness, and strong, unrelenting voice, unwilling to be silent in the face of hatred, injustice, prejudice, separation, murder.

Faith enough not to be discouraged; heart enough for compassion, vision enough for truth, a voice

loud enough to shout against the consistent *“rationalization of inhumanity;”* hope enough to *“let all grow together until the harvest;”* and strength enough to scatter those precious seeds with an almost reckless abandon.

Our song must be true: *“Gather your people, O Lord, Gather your people.”*

