

# Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in July, 2023

## Introduction

**Leader** What kind of disciple of Jesus do we want to be? God's word needs to be deeply rooted in us in order to bear fruit.

## Opening Prayer

**All** God our Father, you sent us Jesus to teach us how to live a full life as his disciple. Help us to root our lives in his word and live that word faithfully. We ask this in Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen

## Word of God Matthew 13:16-23

**Reader** A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (Pause for silent reflection)

**Optional** Discuss these questions in two's or three's. *The reading is on the reverse side*

1. Describe the ways the seed of Jesus' teachings can be sown in our lives today?
2. What is one way you find most helpful in preparing yourself as "rich soil" for Jesus' teachings?

**Response** (Taken from Matthew 13:16-23)

**Side 1** "I say to you, many...longed to see what you see and did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

**Side 2** Do we have sharp enough eyes and ears to appreciate Jesus' messages to us?

**Side 1** "The seed grown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it."

**Side 2** Lord, help us to nurture "rich soil" within ourselves to bear fruit.

**Side 1** "...Who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold."

**Side 2** May our lives witness to the rich, fruitful harvest of goodness to others.

**Petitions** Individuals add intentions to remember here.

## Closing Prayer from Psalm 65

**All** You have crowned the year with your bounty  
and your paths overflow with a rich harvest;  
The untilled meadows overflow with it,  
and rejoicing clothes the hills.

**A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew (13:16-23)**

Jesus said to the disciples,  
“Blessed are your eyes, because they see,  
and your ears because they hear.  
Amen I say to you, many prophets and righteous people  
longed to see what you see but did not see it,  
and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

Hear then the parable of the sower.  
The seed sown on the path is one  
who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it,  
and the evil one comes and steals away  
what was sown in his heart.  
The seed sown on rock ground  
is the one who hears the word and receives it a once with joy  
But he has no root and last only for a time.  
When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word,  
he immediately falls away.  
The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word,  
but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word  
and it bears no fruit.  
But the seed sown on rich soil  
is the one who hears the word and understands it.  
who indeed bears fruit and yield a hundred or sixty  
or thirtyfold.”