

In the Gospel, which is often described in terms of the contrasting responses to the Word of God, the one common feature is the constancy of the Sower. He keeps on sowing. If 'location, location, location' is the determining factor in buying or selling property, the spiritual location of every person's body, mind and heart in response to the Word of God is also crucial. How often have we said when facing a situation that 'you have to be in the right frame of mind.' We know that when all is aligned and in tune, wondrous things can happen. And that's in relation to the physical world. How much more is this true in the spiritual realm? We may touch delicately on the idea of ourselves as not being a good Christian – but the spiritual location of a person matters hugely, their relationship to God or whether we are near or far from God's word. Back to the soil: the seed falls in various locations – on a path, rocky ground, among thorns and on rich soil. Each location in which the seed falls results in a different outcome. The one constant is the faithful sowing. A hardened path can very often be ours, trampled upon by others, worn down by routine, just too many steps trodden on the path

when consumed by those who believe, they may bring ever greater holiness.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. ...

After the Consecration

The mystery of faith.

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.



PARABLE OF THE SOILS

of life. The song puts it that 'there is a crack in everything – that's how the light gets in.' Maybe our various crises in life are simply God's way of opening us to grace and the miracle of rediscovering an inner, hitherto unknown softness – a point of entry for the seed of God to find a home and not bounce off the armour plating of a life worn smooth and tough by routine. Rocky ground speaks of a life somewhat open, but enthusiasm without endurance is one that looks for quick results. It's harder to get volunteers who will stand the long road, not just help at one event. But even then, the Sower casts seed, because an initial 'yes', even if it

doesn't last – well, as we say, 'it's a start!'

Thorns and brambles are more the curse of a 'busy heart'. Everyone is busy, but what are we busy with? Who knows – the seed thrown here may thrust through anyway. Good soil is not perfect soil, it's just open and receptive and perhaps past sorrows have irrigated that soil. There we have it – a faithful Sower, differing soils: which one are we? Sometimes all three at times: hardened, crowded, rocky – and yet there is a richness of depth in everyone. It's a miracle of growth and possibility.

— Tom Cox

THE COMMUNION RITE

Behold the Lamb of God, ...

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon (Cf. Ps 83:4-5)

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.

Prayer after Communion

Having consumed these gifts, we pray, O Lord, That, by our participation in this mystery, its saving effect upon us may grow.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Reflection

Feel Jesus speaking to you the blessing he spoke to his disciples.



Lesson

Those rich in God's gifts receive more, while those who lack faith in the kingdom lose everything.



Prayer

Lord, open our ears that we may hear you and open our eyes that we may see you.