

15th Sunday Ordinary Time

Do we consider ourselves as children of God the farmer? Today's readings exhibit qualities of fidelity, involvement, and perseverance. They show God as a concerned and interested farmer.

The first reading consoles the despairing exiles. God's fidelity to his word is shown as a farmer who sends the rain from heaven to soak the earth. It returns to the heavens in the form of bushes, trees, and food. God is faithful in the face of Israel's infidelity.

The responsorial gives us God as the Lord of the universe, a farmer. He drenches the furrows, breaks up the clods, and softens the land with showers. The blankets of grain testify to His concern for day to day needs. The God of history is the one who muddies His hands.

The Gospel suggests a time in Jesus' ministry when it is met with a lack of response. He adopts the stance of the farmer to judge the pluses and minuses of the harvest. The losses are: immediate on the path, gradual on the rocky ground, and ultimate in the thorns. The pluses are: hundredfold, sixtyfold, and thirtyfold. Even the thirtyfold return is greater than a normal harvest. Like the farmer, Jesus perseveres. He acknowledges that God's mysterious plan is at work.