

GOSPEL MESSAGE

July 12, 2026

LECTIONARY 15

The Generous Gardener

In this parable, Jesus tells the disciples a story of a gardener. While many people carefully plan where to plant seeds (with some modern farmers using technology to map out, down to the millimeter, where each seed will grow best), the gardener in Jesus' story scatters seed generously, almost carelessly.

As the disciples, familiar with farming and fishing, would have known deep within themselves, things don't come easy in this life. Faith is the same. Like seeds that take their time, when the conditions are right to grow and bear fruit, faith isn't always a steady path. There are seasons of cold isolation—times when prayer and devotions don't warm the heart as they once did. There are seasons of scorching busyness—times when endless distractions overwork the head enough to overheat. Faith might look different at these times, but no matter the season, faith is never gone.

Ultimately, faith isn't measured down to the millimeter. Instead, this haphazardly generous gardener extends faith into the impossible places. And when rocks, sun, or thorns from this world and within choke this faith that God has given us, the impossible becomes possible. In every season, God comes again and again to sprinkle more and more seed and to reach out to us before we can even try to grow on our own. And with time and divine Presence, that seed of faith starts to sprout.

Because of this never-ending abundance, every season is an opportunity to engage with God the generous gardener, whose nearness is always available and who gives the gift of faith, no matter the conditions. Today, let the summer breeze remind you of how close God's Spirit is, always nurturing and providing the abundance that is the essence of faith.

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