



## Prayer for the Season

### 'Parable of the Sower'

*Set up the prayer environment with green cloths, seeds, a planter box, a cross and bible.*

#### Introduction

Ordinary Time is the season for growing in the spiritual life. It is the time for becoming more like Jesus Christ. Green is the colour for this season because it is the colour for growth and new life. As we gather today to listen to God's word, we pray that this word will lead and guide us on the path to following Jesus Christ more closely.

*Hand out seeds for each person to hold during the reading.*

#### Reading *Matthew 13:1-9*

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'<sup>1</sup>

*Time for quiet reflection*

#### Response

Leader: You invite us to listen to your word.

**ALL: Let the seed of the word grow within us.**

Leader: You invite us to live your word.

**ALL: Let the goodness of Christ grow within us.**

Leader: You invite us to spread your word.

**ALL: Let the good news of God grow within us.**

Leader: God of new life, you have planted the seed of the gospel in our hearts. Nurture its growth in our hearts and in our lives. May the world be a better place because we have heard the gospel and put it into practice.

**ALL: Amen.**

*To conclude, plant the seeds in the soil while singing 'Make Our Hearts, O Lord' by Michael Herry (No 25 Sing Spirit, Sing Life) or another suitable hymn.*

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