The Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost
Luke 8:5-15

A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung upccc it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience. (KJV

Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council
John 17:1-13

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given Him power over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given Him. And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou Me with thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.I have manifested Thy name unto the men which thou gavest Me out of the world: Thine they were, and Thou gavest them Me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever Thou hast given Me are of Thee. For I have given unto them the words which Thou gavest Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from Thee, and they have believed that Thou didst send Me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which Thou hast given Me; for they are Thine. And all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to Thee. Holy Father, keep through Thine own name those whom Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Thy name: those that Thou gaveseMe I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have My joy fulfilled in themselves (KJV)

Believers gather in church each Sunday for the Divine Liturgy. The Divine Liturgy is a foretaste of the Heavenly Kingdom. Believers come to pray to God, to give God glory and to experience Jesus Christ for the salvation of their souls.

St. John's Gospel for today speaks about eternal life. Eternal life and God's Kingdom are primary goals established at Holy Baptism. The life in Christ is embraced and taken up at baptism.

Living in Christ is endless if the believer is faithful. During earthly life believers continue to work out their salvation. Personal relationships and actions determine whether the believer experiences God's Kingdom and eternal life.

Believers are blessed to hear the word of God in the church. Whether the word of God takes root and is cultivated with patience is up to each person. Believers that are patient in the life in Christ experience abundant fruit.

Christ said "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." (Jn.10:10) The abundant life in Christ is realized in internal peace. Abundant life in Christ involves sensing the presence of Christ throughout life.

Appreciating God's love each day is fruit of the life in Christ. Seeing God at work in the world is fruit of the life in Christ. Maintaining relationships based in sincerity and honesty are fruit of living in Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ teaches believers how to live with each other. Christ's teachings are proclaimed at each Divine Liturgy. Attentive believers work at incorporating Christ's teachings into their daily lives.

The Church is where believers work out their salvation. The Church provides Jesus' teachings for instruction. Observing believers learn well from the Mother of God and the Saints of how to live in Christ.

Each person chooses freely to enter the Baptismal font. Each day believers choose whether to say "yes" to the way of Christ. Jesus Christ's parable of the Sower teaches only a small percentage of believers remain patient and are fruitful.

After exiting the Baptismal font, many individuals take paths leading far from God's Kingdom. God is good and merciful. God welcomes individuals choosing to repent and to return to the narrow path to the Kingdom.

Each Divine Liturgy is a blessed experience. Believers taking the Divine Liturgy seriously will leave more united with Christ than when they first entered the church.

This Sunday believers are blessed to hear two Gospel messages. Becoming a Christian and remaining a Christian requires serious commitment. God's Kingdom and eternal life await those choosing to follow the narrow path set forth by Christ.

Joy, love and peace are integral to the life in Christ. Each Divine Liturgy is an opportunity for further acquiring the life in Christ. Continued conscious actions of the heart, mind and soul are necessary to bring forth fruit with patience.

The Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost. The Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council. Holy Martyr Tarachus. Probus and Andronicus. St. Cosmas of Maiuma. October 13/25, 2026. Father Rodney Torbic