

Homily – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 11

Brothers and sisters,

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us something we should never forget:

"While everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat."
(Matthew 13:25)

Notice that the enemy did not come while the workers were watching. He came while they were asleep.

The same is true in our spiritual lives.

The devil works most effectively when we become spiritually asleep—when we stop praying, stop reading Scripture, stop worshiping faithfully, or begin living as though God is far away. A sleeping soul becomes an easy place for weeds to grow.

That is why St. Paul reminds us:

"If by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live." (Romans 8:13)

The Christian life requires vigilance. Every day we must stay close to Christ, because if we do not allow Him to plant His Word in our hearts, the enemy will gladly plant something else.

But Jesus also teaches us something about the harvest. Wheat is recognized because it bears fruit. In the same way, Christians are recognized not simply by what they say, but by what they do.

Our faith becomes visible through concrete acts of love: forgiving others, caring for those in need, serving our neighbor, praying faithfully, and supporting the mission of Christ's Church.

Even our giving is part of our discipleship. When we make an offering or faithfully keep our pledge, we are not simply paying bills. We are saying with our actions, "Lord, I trust You more than I trust my possessions. Everything I have comes from You."

Our generosity is an act of worship. It is one more way that the wheat bears fruit.

The Psalm we heard today gives us the prayer we all need:

"Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; knit my heart to you." (Psalm 86:11)

That is the opposite of spiritual sleep. A heart knit to God stays awake.

So today let us ask ourselves: Am I awake, or have I become spiritually drowsy? What seeds am I allowing to grow in my heart? And does my life bear the fruit that shows I truly belong to Christ?

Jesus ends the parable with this promise:

"Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!" (Matthew 13:43)

May God keep us awake, faithful, and fruitful until that great harvest, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.