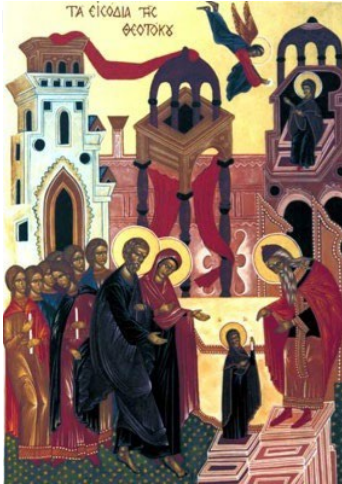


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Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

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The Seed is the Word of God
October 26, 2025

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Parable of the Sower and the Seed from Luke 8. Pentecost 20. 10/26/2025

- I think of my backyard when I hear this parable.
 - Try as we might, plants grow in the most unlikely places. Some of them are weeds, of course, but not only weeds.
 - Seeds from the fruit of a distant mulberry tree dropped by this or that bird grow in the most unlikely of places, cracks between paving stones, between bricks lining a small flower garden
 - Flowers cling to life as they grow out of rocky crags in the country; we see them when we go out with the dogs for a walk.
- It's the same way with the seed sown by the Sower in the parable. It goes everywhere. Of course it grows in good soil; nothing special about that! But the fact that it even grows among the thorns and the rocks and produces fruit is the miracle.

- And a miracle it is. 100-fold. Not merely producing fruit or new seed pods to replace that which was sown; that would be 100 percent. But 100 times 100 percent, which if my math is correct is 100,000 percent! A miracle.
- But what is this seed? The Holy Fathers point out the obvious: We hear it every Pascha with the reading of the Gospel from John chapter 1 in the Paschal Divine Liturgy:
 - The seed is the Divine Word of God, the Truth about God's Incarnation and His will to save all humanity in spite of rocky and dry and craggy conditions.
 - The Seed is Jesus Christ Himself, and the message associated with Him is that He has come to save, not to condemn; He has come to pull us to Himself: "Come unto me all who are heavy laden, and I will give you rest; take my yoke upon you, for I am gentle and kind, and you will find rest for your souls!"
- This Truth will take root even in the most unlikely of places. Yes, there will be those who refuse it; they hear but don't understand; they see but don't apprehend.
- But in spite of difficulties of context and condition, it will grow.
- Obviously, a good Sower of the Word of God reaches out to those who seem to be able and ready to receive it.
- But as Sowers of the Word of God, each and every one of us must remember the simple truth that even the most unlikely of candidates for reception can and often do accept it, run with it and allow it to change their lives.
- Thus, we never give up; we never stop sowing the Word of God, the Truth about Christ as our means of eternal salvation.
- We trust in the One Who will allow the Seed of the Word grow in the most unlikely of places.
- And, indeed it will!

Fr. Elias

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