

**Contemporary Reading:** "The Arrowhead" by Mary Oliver

The arrowhead,  
which I found beside the river,  
was glittering and pointed.  
I picked it up, and said,  
'Now, it's mine.'  
I thought of showing it to friends.  
I thought of putting it, such and imposing trinket,  
in a little box, on my desk.  
Halfway home, past the cut fields,  
the old ghost  
stood under the hickories.  
'I would rather drink the wind,' he said,  
'I would rather eat mud and die  
than steal as you still steal,  
than lie as you still lie.'

**Hebrew Bible:**

For the head ceremonial singer. A sacred song of Much Loved One (David). A song of giving thanks.

Hear words of faith and hope in Psalm 65 First Nations version

1 O Great Spirit, sometimes the only honour I can bring you is my breathless silence. Strong Mountain (Zion) is where we will carry out our sacred promises.

2 All humankind will come to you, for you hear and answer prayer.

3 Our bad hearts and broken ways overpower us, but you release us from them all.

4 Harmony and well-being rest on your chosen ones, those you welcomed to live with you in your gathering place. We will find our full meaning and purpose in the holy place where you live, in the beauty of your sacred lodge.

5 You answer our prayers with awesome and fearful deeds, O Great Spirit, the One Who Sets Us Free. You show us your right ways, giving hope to people from all directions, even those living across the great waters.

6 You set the mountains in their place, for you are wrapped in a sash of great power and strength.

7 You calm the roaring of the great waters, their crashing waves, and the loud shouting of the nations.

8 People who walk in lands far away stand in awe of your wonders. From sunrise to sunset, you make the sun dance across the circle of the sky and shout for joy.

9 You care for Mother Earth with gentle rains, making her rich and pregnant with life. Your streams overflow with water. You provide seeds of corn, beans, and squash, making her ready to give birth.

10 You send water to soak into the planting mounds and soften the ground. You bless the sprouts as they grow green and strong.

11 Creator, during the growing season, you dance, and wherever your feet touch the ground, Mother Earth brings forth a great harvest of good things.

12 The grasslands in the wilderness drip with dew. Even the little hills put on their finest regalia and sing songs of joy.

13 The meadows clothe themselves with flocks of sheep, and the valleys wear a blanket fragrant with the smell of sweetgrass. Together, their voices echo back and forth with songs of joy.

Pause

For the wisdom and poetry of our ancestors

**We give thanks.**

## **Gospel**

**Lyn**

Hear words of faith from the Gospel of Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.

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!"

Hear then the parable of the sower.

**Eleanor**

When anyone hears the word of God's reign and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.

As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.

As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.

But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

For the word of God inspiring us,  
For the word of God among us,  
For the word of God within us.

**Thanks be to God!**