



The parable of the sower that we heard today from the Gospel of Matthew also appears (although not word for word) in both Mark and Luke. Mark's version mentions those who hear and accept the word of God, Luke mentions those who embrace it, and Matthew goes beyond them both and mentions understanding. We do not hear, accept, embrace or understand on our own. It is grace, it is gift, it is the action of the Holy Spirit in our lives that prompts us, nudges us to open our hearts and minds, along with our eyes and ears, our hands, feet and voices, to receive and respond to the Word of God. Like the first disciples, Jesus asks us, "What are you looking for?" And he invites us to "come and see." What ARE you looking for? Perhaps it is waiting for you in one of the small faith-sharing communities that will form this fall as our parish family begins to ARISE Together in Christ. We are entrusting ARISE to the power of the Holy Spirit—that many will be inspired to "come and see." God always shows up—we pray that you will, too!