

## A-15 OT

I think all of us here are young enough to remember kindergarten or first grade or whatever grade it was that we were given an experiment involving the growing of a seed. Each of us was given a lima bean along with an explanation of that each of us would be responsible for what became of it. With the bean and the explanation, we were also given a paper towel and a small Dixie cup and were instructed to moisten the towel, wrap it around the bean, put it in the cup and place the cup near a window. Incredibly the bean soon germinated and began to grow.

After about a week we were asked to bring our sprouting beans to school. Some were ashamed to admit they lost the bean or “the dog ate it.” Others had forgotten to keep the bean moist and its growth was stunted. Some forgot about the light and the bean sprouted but withered. Still others were proud to show off a relatively tall and healthy sprout.

Today’s scriptures are about the wonder of a seed. Both the prophet Isaiah and the Gospel of Matthew prompt us to compare the Word of God that we have gathered to hear to a seed, planted anew in us each week. In order for growth to occur, we must accept the seed, take it home with us and carefully, and lovingly tend to it while allowing it also to tend to and care for us. We take the seed of the Word of God home with us and hopefully we allow it to grow and influence our life.

Things can go wrong with the seed and its growth, but God’s mysterious plan is still at work. Good results do come. Despite some failures there is hope. The sower’s work (God’s word), for the most

part succeeds. The sign of success is the fruit bearing of the recipient, ourselves, the soil, so the story is one of success and encouragement.

The Word of God is portable. We can carry it wherever we go. It can enter into every aspect of our human experience. If the Word we hear does not germinate in us and then travel with us across the threshold of the church and on into the rest of the week, it cannot accomplish its God-intended purpose – to achieve the end for which God spoke it into the world and into each of our lives. As Isaiah says the Word of God will not return to God void, but shall do his will, achieving the end for which God sent it. Our job is not to stand in the way of God's word but to transport it.