

Sunday 26th July 2020: Trinity 7
Matthew 13 v31-33, 44-52

Welcome to Praying Together but
Separately

WELCOME

HYMN GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY

INTRODUCTION

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

I am in the presence of the Living God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy Spirit
Dwell in me,
That I may become prayer.

Whether I sleep or wake,
Eat or drink,
Labour or rest,
May the fragrance of prayer
Rise, without effort in my heart.

Purify my soul and never leave me,
So that the movements of my heart and mind
May, with voices full of sweetness,
Sing in secret to God. *After St. Isaac the Syrian (seventh century)*

HYMN: KING OF GLORY, KING OF PEACE

CONFESSION

As the word of God is living and active. It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart. All is open and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we give account.

We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

In a dark and disfigured world we have not held out the light of life:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

In a hungry and despairing world we have failed to share our bread;

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

In a cold and loveless world we have kept the love of God to ourselves:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God:

We believe in God the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lived in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

REFLECTION

Ask God to speak to you through the passage that you are about to read.

THE COLLECT

Generous God,
You give us gifts and make them grow;
Though our faith is small as mustard seed,
Make it grow to your glory
And the flourishing of your kingdom;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

BIBLE READING:

FIRST READING 1 Kings 3:5-12 read by Neil Walters of Harlington *A reading from the first book of Kings.*

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

HYMN: LIKE A MIGHTY RIVER FLOWING (ST M F)

Matthew 13 v31-33, 44-52 Read by Andrew Long of Toddington

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the

greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

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“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

SERMON

HYMN: TAKE THIS MOMENT, SIGN AND SPACE BY JOHN BELL

OUR PRAYERS

Let us pray using this ancient Byzantine Litany,

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love and be found without fault at the day of your coming, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust, that they may serve justice and promote the dignity and freedom of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For a blessing upon the labours of all, and for the right use of the riches of creation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger, that they may be relieved and protected, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this community; for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of

heart and show forth your glory in all that we do, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our enemies and those who wish us harm; and for all whom we have injured or offended, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the faith of Christ, that, with all the saints they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

A PRAYER CONCERNING THE CORONAVIRUS

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

REFLECTIVE MUSIC

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment

receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May God give to you and to all those you love his comfort and his peace, his light and his joy, in this world and the next...

THE FINAL HYMN: All my hope on God is founded