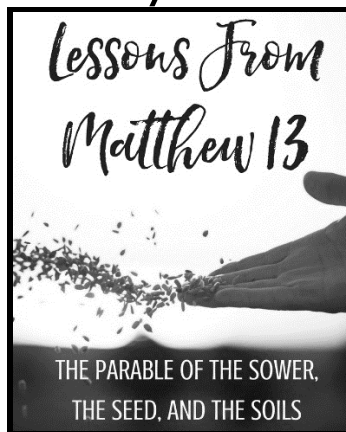


Sunday 12 July, 2020

Fifth Sunday after Trinity



## Prayer and worship at home

*If a household are praying together, one person may act as leader and the others as the congregation and they join in the words in bold type.*

*If alone, read all the words aloud.*

*You may want to light a candle before you begin, and have a Bible, cross or crucifix to look at.*

*You might prepare for this act of worship by listening to some music, or by being still.*

## Preparation

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### The Act of Penitence

*As we pray, we reflect on the week that has passed and ask the Lord for his forgiveness and healing.*

Lord Jesus, you said to your disciples:  
'You have not chosen me,  
but I have chosen you.'

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, we know that the harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you appointed us to go and bear fruit that will last.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

### Words of forgiveness

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.**

### The Special Prayer for this week

Almighty God,  
send down upon your Church  
the riches of your Spirit,  
and kindle in all who minister the gospel  
your countless gifts of grace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Word of the Lord

**First Reading** | *Romans 8. 1 - 11*

*A reading from the letter to the Romans*

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## The Holy Gospel | Matthew 13. 1-9 and 18 - 23

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

### Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. 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. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom 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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Affirmation of faith

With our Christian brothers and sisters, we affirm our faith in God, the Holy Trinity.

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

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives 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.**

## Prayers of intercession

*(Here you may wish to offer prayer in your own words)*

### The Lord's Prayer

Joining with Christians throughout the world, we pray:

**Our Father....**

*Or*

**Our Father in heaven....**

### The Grace

*We conclude our prayers*

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy  
Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen**

### Readings for the coming week:

Monday	Psalm 98	Matthew 10.34-11.1
Tuesday	Psalm 106	Matthew 11.20-24
Wednesday	Psalm 111	Matthew 11.25-27
Thursday	Psalm 115	Matthew 11.28-end
Friday	Psalm 139	Matthew 12.1-8
Saturday	Psalm 121	Matthew 12.14-21

**Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate  
us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.**