

Sunday 26 July 2020 Seventh Sunday after Trinity



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 Lord is here His spirit is with us

The Act of Penitence

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

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love: fill us with your Spirit. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith: fill us with your Spirit. Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust: fill us with your Spirit. 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

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**

The Word of the Lord

First Reading | Romans 8. 26 - 39

A reading from the letter to the Romans

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

The Holy Gospel | Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-52

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

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus put before the crowd 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. 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.'

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

Affirmation of faith

With our Christian brothers and sisters worshipping at home, and throughout the world, 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....

Conclusion

We conclude our prayers with The Grace or a prayer of blessing.

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 I	Matthew 13.31-35
Tuesday	Psalm 5	Matthew 13.36-43
Wednesday	Psalm 119.1-32	Matthew 13.44-46
Thursday	Psalm 15	Matthew 13.47-53
Friday	Psalm 19	Matthew 13.54-end
Saturday	Psalm 23	Matthew 14.1-12

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.

