

Welcome to a short time of prayer and reflection for the seventeenth Sunday after Trinity. Let us be still and recognise we are in the presence of God: Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen

The Lord be with you

In today's gospel Jesus talks of the Kingdom of God being given to a people who "produce the fruits of the kingdom". We might want to look at ourselves, our own lives and ask – what are the fruits of my thoughts, words and deeds? Am I offering God and God's world that which is wholesome, or that which is destructive?

We offer as our praise of God all that we bring to the world that is life-giving and enriching to those around us. And we ask for healing and forgiveness for all those times when our contribution has been negative, hurtful or selfish:

Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord hear my voice Lord have mercy

If you Lord, were to mark what is done amiss, Lord who could stand? Christ have mercy

But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. Lord have mercy

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for him: in his word is my hope.

May Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive you your sins and bring you to everlasting life Amen

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever, Amen

We listen to a reading from the Gospel of Matthew 21 : 33-end
The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon : see additional attachment

Let us pray:

Father, we pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world: asking your protection for all who live in places where faith is persecuted, your encouragement for all who live in places where faith is disregarded, and your energy for those who are meeting the needs of those hungry for faith around them, in your name. Bless the churches of our Mission Community, and our ecumenical friends at Living Waters, The Convent and Lee Abbey.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Lord we pray for your world. Help all peoples to understand that the earth we share is a gift to us all. Turn the hearts of the violent to peace, the hearts of the greedy to generosity, the hearts of the power-hungry to service. Guide all who lead in wise judgement and clear decision making towards the care and support of the weakest and most vulnerable in our world.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all those with whom we share our lives, asking your blessing on our families and friends. We pray especially for all those who are struggling with all the changes and challenges of the last few months: for those who are anxious or confused, for those who are in financial difficulty, for those who are lonely that the support that they need will be available and easy for them to find.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Tender God, we bring our prayers for all who suffer. We raise to you in our own hearts any who we know to be ill, injured in distress, at home, in hospital or in a hospice. Bless with the comfort of your presence and such healing that is according to your will all these and those we now name, and those we cannot name because their pain is known only to you.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Eternal God, we commend to your everlasting love all who have died: those we love and see no longer; those who have died recently and those whose anniversary of death falls around now. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We gather all these intercessions in the prayer Jesus gave us:

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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever and ever, Amen.

Giving thanks for the communion we share through baptism with one another and with God in Christ Jesus our Lord we make an act of spiritual communion in the words of this prayer:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. As I cannot receive you sacramentally today, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

And we pray for God's blessing on each other and all who we love and pray for:

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen