

As we come to a short time of prayer and reflection for the fourth Sunday after Trinity, let's 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 compares his hearers to children in two different ways. He says the people of the crowd are like contrary children who cannot agree in their games as they find fault with the holiness lived out in different ways by John the Baptist and Jesus himself. Yet, he also says, God has chosen to reveal true wisdom to the little ones, not the wise and learned.

As we prepare to reflect on the gospel let us take a moment to review the last week, to notice when we resist all the ways that God seeks us out, and those times when we have been open to the wisdom of God.

Let's hand over to God in confession all that makes us contrary in our relationships with each other and with God:

When we have turned away from you and ignored your will for our lives, Lord have mercy.

When we have behaved just as we wished, without thinking of you, Christ have mercy.

When have failed you by what we do and say, 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

Let us pray:

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,

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 11:16-19, 25-end

The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon : see additional attachment

Let us pray:

Gracious God, we pray for your church, the body of Christ on earth. May we be guided by your wisdom to recognise that living as your children is restful to our souls and to reject all that we do in your name which creates heavy burdens for us and those around us

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Father of every generation, we pray for your world. That all may live in harmony with the rhythms of nature, attuned to caring for our environment and sharing its gifts with equity, justice and peace. Bring us relief and healing from the pandemic we suffer from now and guide all decision with your wisdom

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we ask you blessing on those with whom we share our lives: for our families and friends, and our neighbours in this place. We pray for protection for all those who offer and receive hospitality here and for an atmosphere of mutual awareness and concern to extend throughout our community

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Loving Lord, We bring to you in our hearts all who we know to be suffering at this time: through illness, injury or any kind of distress. Help them to have a sense of your presence with them. Bring them wholeness of body, mind and spirit, and the healing that is according to God's will,

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.

And we pray for God's blessing:

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