

Welcome to a short time of prayer and reflection for the fifth 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

Today we hear the familiar parable of the Sower, the seeds and the soil. "Let anyone with ears listen" Jesus says. It is an invitation to let even a story that is very familiar speak to us anew, to puzzle over it and ask what it is saying to each of us now. It is an invitation to open ourselves to the seed of God's word and receive it in our hearts which offer good soil.

As we prepare to reflect on the gospel let us take a moment to review the last week, to notice when we receive and give God's love wholeheartedly and give thanks for those times; and then to notice where love falls on rocky or bramble patches of our lives and is not fruitful. Let's seek healing and forgiveness for those times in our confession.

When like the seed falling on the path we have resisted your love
Lord have mercy.

When our love has been shallow and short-lived
Christ have mercy.

When cares and anxiety have blocked our way to your love
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:

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of eth Church is governed and sanctified; hear our prayer which we offer for all you faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry

they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, 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 13:1-9, 18-23

The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon : see additional attachment

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, we pray for your church that we may be both those who now sow the seed of your Word in our world, and those who nurture places of for it to fall in good soil by the way we share your love with those around us

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, your words so often sprang from a loving observation of creation, we pray for all who care for the earth. For those who sow our seeds and farm and garden our land with care and integrity. We pray that the recovery from this pandemic will bring with it a fuller appreciation of how we can all share the resources of our planet without continuing its plunder.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Loving Lord, we ask you blessing on those with whom we share our lives. We pray for all who are finding life hard at the moment: through financial strain, health anxieties, distance from loved ones or general uncertainty. We ask your blessing on our our families and friends, and our neighbours in this place.

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