

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

More parables today - seeds, yeast, treasure, a rare pearl, a haul of fish- are the images Jesus gives us, one after the other, to capture our imagination and lead us to wondering at what the Kingdom of heaven is like.

As we prepare to reflect on the gospel let's ask God to free us from all that blocks our imagination and our sight from seeing the seed growing, the yeast leavening, the hidden treasure, the ultimate value of his presence in our lives. Let's confess our sins

Lord Jesus when we overlook the little signs of your kingdom

Lord have mercy.

When we obstruct the growth of your love in the world,

Christ have mercy.

When it feels like the treasure in our faith is buried with other concerns,

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:

Generous God, you give us your gifts and make them grow: though our faith be as small as a mustard seed, make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We listen to a reading from the Gospel of Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52
The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon : see additional attachment

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, you said the Kingdom of God was like a net for fish of every kind: we give you thanks that your church extends across our world. We pray that we may learn how to celebrate and enjoy our differences and diversity as children of the same heavenly Father, and your brothers and sisters.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, you teach us to trust the growth from small seeds: in a world where big is so often considered beautiful, teach our leaders to notice the small people: those with hidden gifts and particular needs. Help us all to make the small changes in our own lives that contribute to the care of the planet, making peace and restoring health to all.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Loving Lord, we ask you blessing on those with whom we share our lives. We pray for our families, friends and neighbours, giving thanks for their place in our lives and the gifts they bring us. Bless all who are supporting those who are still isolating, and be the companion of all for whom this time is still upsetting.

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