

**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
(12.07.20)**

GREETING

Grace, mercy and
peace from God
our Father
and the Lord Jesus
Christ be with you.
and also with you.

Come and worship the Lord God –
author of our stories, each one so different.
Come and hear God's story for us today,
and make it part of your story.
Amen.

WELCOME

CONFESSION

Dear God, who is imaged in Jesus Christ,
when we are tempted to look at the lives of others
as though they have the same opportunities as we do,
ignoring the differences in beginnings and endings,
in support and nurture,
in circumstances and levels of struggle:
Forgive us and open our eyes to the truth, O God.

If we fail to search our hearts about the things
which distract us and seduce us in this life,
things which take away our dependence on you
and divert us from the real journey of faith:
Forgive us and open our eyes to the truth, O God.

When we simply go on without thinking deeply at all,
treating one day like any other,
complacently choosing to avoid struggling
with the big questions before us:

**Forgive us and open our eyes to the truth, O God,
and bring us before you in a new way.**

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Even as we bring our confession
before our God,
the commitment of costly grace still stands.
There is indeed no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus.

We are forgiven!

This is the gift of God to us.

Amen.

COLLECT

Almighty God,
send down upon your Church
the riches of your Spirit,
and kindle in all who minister the gospel
your countless gifts of grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

READINGS

Isaiah 55:10-13

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought

forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!’

‘Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.’

REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith together:

**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

THE PEACE

Let love be genuine. Never pay back evil for evil.
As far as it lies with you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 12.9,17,18

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught his disciples, so we pray:

**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.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

BLESSING

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
wherever he may send you.

May he guide you through the wilderness,
and protect you through the storm.

May he bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders he has shown you.

May he bring you home rejoicing
once again into our doors.

Amen.

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

NOTICES

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