Trinity 14, Proper 19, Year A, 13.09.2020

*Matthew 18.21-35*

*Peter asks Jesus about the extent of forgiveness. Jesus answers with a funny – and chilling – parable about a man, who is forgiven much but who forgives very little, and is punished by his master for this attitude.*

**Welcome and introduction**

Gathering Prayer:

Teach us, O God, how to treat you, how to know you, how to love you,   
how to learn of you, how to do as you would have us do.   
Teach us, above all, how to show those same things to those around us,  
and those whose lives meet ours, those who rub alongside us each day,  
and those who flit briefly by. **Amen.**

**Hymn You laid aside your majesty**

You laid aside your majesty, gave up everything for me.

Suffered at the hands of those you had created.

You took all my guilt and shame, when you died and rose again.

Now today you reign, in heaven and earth exalted.

I really want to worship you my Lord, you have won my heart and I am yours.

Forever and ever, I will love you.

You are the only one who died for me, gave your life to set me free.

So I lift my voice to you in adoration.

Prayer of Confession

We are sorry, Lord, for bearing grudges   
and harbouring bitterness and anger against others;   
forgive us and help us to let go,   
**and let your love bring healing and renewal.**  
We are sorry, Lord, for the pain we have caused   
to others by our actions and our words;   
free us from the burden of our selfishness,  
**and let your love bring healing and renewal.**  
  
We are sorry, Lord, for the weakness of our faith,  
and our failure to trust in you;  
assure us of your presence,  
grant us your peace,  
**and let your love bring healing and renewal.**  
  
We are sorry, Lord, for the times   
we have been judgemental of others,   
or made decisions about people without considering how they feel,  
or taken the moral high ground and ignored our own faults and failings;  
remind us that we all need forgiveness,  
**and let your love bring healing and renewal.**  
  
We are thankful, Lord,  
for your mercy and love are steadfast,   
and you forgive us.  
**Amen.**

**The Absolution**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

**The****Collect***, the special prayer for today*

Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross:  
may we trust in your mercy and know your love,  
rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Reading** Matthew 18: 21-35

Peter came and said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.” And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, “Pay what you owe.” Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you.” But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, “You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?” And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.’

Address

**Hymn God forgave my sin in Jesus’ name**

God forgave my sin in Jesus’ name,  
I’ve been born again in Jesus’ name;  
And in Jesus’ name I come to you  
To share His love as He told me to.  
  
He said: ‘Freely, freely, you have received,  
Freely, freely give;  
Go in My name, and because you believe  
Others will know that I live.’  
  
All power is given in Jesus’ name,  
In earth and heaven in Jesus’ name;  
And in Jesus’ name I come to you  
To share His power as He told me to.

**Bless the Gifts**

Lord Jesus, you gave everything for us.  
As we offer you our gifts, we offer you all that we have, and are, and will be,  
praying that our church, and our mission,  
may reach out so that others may come to share in your risen life. **Amen.**

**Prayers**

God of grace,  
we pray for all facing the reality of debts they cannot pay:  
those behind with their mortgage payments;  
those whose credit card bills are out of control;  
those who have gambled and lost heavily;  
small nations that are indebted to more powerful ones.

We ask your blessing on those agencies that seek to help.

**Generous God, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in prison:  
those paying their debt to society,   
those who deeply regret their actions and those who don’t.  
We pray for those struggling to forgive other people  
who have hurt them, or someone they love;   
those whose pain is raw and terrible.  
We pray for prison chaplains   
and for all who minister to victims of crime and violence.

**Gracious God, hear our prayer.**

We pray for one another and for ourselves,   
that we might not judge others   
more harshly than you judge us,   
or be complacent about the costliness of forgiveness.

**Generous God, hear our prayer   
which we make in the name of Jesus Christ,  
who gave everything on the cross for our sake.   
Amen.**

*We sing the* ***Lord’s* *Prayer***

**Our Father who art in heaven HBTN**

**Thy kingdom come thy will be done HBTN**

**On earth as it is in heaven HBTN**

**Give us this day our daily bread HBTN**

**Forgive us all our trespasses HBTN**

**As we forgive those who trespass against us HBTN**

**And lead us not into temptation HBTN**

**But deliver us from all that is evil HBTN**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory HBTN**

**For ever and for ever and ever HBTN**

**Blessing**

God calls us to be generous, merciful and forgiving   
and blesses us with grace and truth and courage,   
so go in the name of Christ thankfully, faithfully and joyfully.

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be amongst you and remain with you, now and forever. **Amen.**

**The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

**Hymn Thank you for saving me**

Thank You for saving me, what can I say? You are my everything, I will sing Your praise  
You shed Your blood for me, what can I say?

You took my sin and shame, a sinner called by name  
  
*Great is the Lord (2x)  
For we know Your truth has set us free, you've set your hope in me*  
  
Mercy and grace are mine, forgiven is my sin  
Jesus my only hope, the Saviour of the world  
"Great is the Lord" we cry. God let Your Kingdom come  
Your Word has let me see, thank You for saving me