Trinity 5, Proper 10, 12.07.2020, All Age

*On screen before the service:*

*The familiar parable of the sower comes round once more, inviting us to think about what it means to follow Jesus in the midst of a busy and distracted life. As many of Jesus’ parables tell us, just hearing the word is not enough.*

**Prayer of Approach**

We draw near to Jesus:  
**Lord, we are listening.**

We calm ourselves and prepare:  
**Lord, we are listening.**

We seek to root out the debris of our lives:  
**Lord, we are listening.**

We cast aside the weeds that would choke your seed:  
**Lord, we are listening.**

We seek to root your word deep within us:  
**Lord, we are listening.  
Amen.**

**Hymn All I once held dear**

All I once held dear, built my life upon, all this world reveres, and wars to own.  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss, Spent and worthless now, compared to this

*Chorus:  
Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you, There is no greater thing  
You're my all, you're my best You're my joy, my righteousness And I love you, Lord*

Now my heart's desire is to know you more, to be found in you and known as yours  
to possess by faith what I could not earn, all-surpassing gift of righteousness

*Chorus*  
Oh, to know the power of your risen life and to know You in Your sufferings  
To become like you in your death, my Lord. So with you to live and never die

**Prayer of Confession**

We hear the Word of God  
but we do not always live our lives in harmony with it.   
We ask the Lord to forgive us and heal us:

God our Creator,   
touch our hearts and minds   
that we may live as you intended.

We ask the Lord   
**to forgive us and heal us.**

Jesus our Life-giver,   
give us depth and faithfulness   
that God’s message may not wither in us.

We ask the Lord   
**to forgive us and heal us.**

Holy Spirit, our Sustainer,  
make us receptive to God’s word  
and to the message of life it brings.

We ask the Lord   
**to forgive us and heal us.**

God, in your great goodness,  
speak to us your word of forgiveness  
and lead us into new and fruitful life with you.   
**Amen.**

**The Absolution**

Almighty God have mercy on you,

forgive you your sins

and bring you to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

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

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.**

**The Reading**

Matthew 13: 1-9; 18-23

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.’

Address

**Hymn Open our eyes, Lord**

Open our eyes, Lord  
We want to see Jesus  
To reach out and touch Him  
And say that we love Him  
Open our ears, Lord

And help us to listen  
Open our eyes, Lord

We want to see Jesus

**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**

**Intercessions**

Let us pray to God that we may welcome his word and respond to his call.

We pray for those who spread the Word of God in our world,  
for church leaders, evangelists and teachers,  
that they may sow the good news with energy and joy.

Lord of the harvest,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all Christian communities,  
and especially for our own community,  
that we may not let the cares of the world choke the Word of God in us.

Lord of the harvest,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have not yet seen and understood the Word of God,  
that they may be enlightened and recognise God’s power in their lives.

Lord of the harvest,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have ignored the Word of God,  
that they may begin to hear and comprehend the Word of Life in all its fullness.

Lord of the harvest,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick, the sad and the suffering,  
for doctors, nurses and for all who work for healing,

that God’s strength and power may be with them.

Lord of the harvest,  
**hear our prayer.**

Lord may your Word not return to you empty

and may our prayers be heard by you in heaven.

Merciful Father,

**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,**

**Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. 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

Thank you Lord for all your gifts   
**and especially for the seed of your word planted in our hearts.**

May we take your message of love  
and use it to bear good fruit in our lives,   
**serving others for your name’s sake.**

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 The river is here**

Down the mountain the river flows   
And it brings refreshing wherever it goes   
Through the valleys and over the fields   
The river is rushing and the river is here   
  
*The river of God sets our feet a-dancing   
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer   
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter   
And we rejoice for the river is here*  
The river of God is teeming with life   
And all who touch it can be revived   
And those who linger on this river’s shore   
Will come back thirsting for more of the Lord

*The river of God sets our feet a-dancing   
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer   
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter   
And we rejoice for the river is here*

Up to the mountain we love to go   
To find the presence of the Lord   
Along the banks of the river we run   
We dance with laughter giving praise to the Son

*The river of God sets our feet a-dancing   
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer   
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter   
And we rejoice for the river is here*

Down the mountain the river flows   
And it brings refreshing wherever it goes   
Through the valleys and over the fields   
The river is rushing and the river is here

*The river of God sets our feet a-dancing   
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer   
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter   
And we rejoice for the river is here*

*And we rejoice for the river is here*