Trinity 7, Proper 12, Year A, 26.07.2020

* *The kingdom of heaven is like the seed that becomes a shrub, or yeast in a bowl of flour: a little goes a very long way.*
* *Like buried treasure or a priceless jewel, it is worth giving up everything to possess.*
* *But just as fishermen must sort their catch, so there will eventually be a sorting of good and evil.*

**Welcome and introduction**

Gathering Prayer:

God, our God,  
nothing can separate us from your love,  
not things in our past, nor things to come.  
There is nowhere we can go to flee from you,  
nor can anyone come between us,  
for your love is with us in life,   
and through to our life’s end.   
**Amen.**

**Hymn Seek ye first the kingdom of God**

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness  
and all these things shall be added unto you, allelu, alleluia  
  
You shall not live by bread alone but by every word  
that proceeds from the mouth of God, allelu, alleluia  
  
Ask and it shall be given unto you seek and ye shall find  
knock and the door shall be opened unto you, allelu, alleluia

Prayer of Confession

**Forgive us, loving God,   
when we stop looking for treasure  
and give up reading your word.   
Forgive us when we give up the yeast of our faith   
and our lives go flat.   
Forgive us when we don’t cast out our nets,   
but stay on shore, complacent and unenthusiastic.   
Forgive us, inspire us and renew us in Jesus’ name.  
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*

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

**The Reading** Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.’ He told them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Have you understood all this?’ They answered, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’

Address *(pictures for address can be found at the end of this document)*

**Hymn Brother, sister, let me serve you**

Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you;

pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road;

we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ light for you in the night time of your fear;

I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I’ll laugh with you.

I will share your joy and sorrow till we’ve seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,

born of all we’ve known together of Christ’s love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you;

pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

**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**

We pray for all Christian people that they may hold their faith dear  
and continue to love according to the Gospel.

Lord, hear your people,  
**and let our prayer come before you.**

We pray for the leaders of the nations as they work for progress and prosperity,  
that they may not lose sight of the poor and the vulnerable and their needs.

Lord hear your people,  
**and let our prayer come before you.**

We pray for the sick and for those in need  
that in their suffering they might find care and compassion from those around them.

Lord hear your people,  
**and let our prayer come before you.**

Loving God, we thank you that in your Son Jesus we have found   
the treasure which makes our life worthwhile.  
Keep us in your love and care, now and always,  
and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.  
**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**

Go in peace;  
live the kingdom;  
share its treasures;  
keep the faith.  
And now may God the Father bless you,  
God the Son inspire you,  
and God the Holy Spirit enlighten you  
now and always.  
**Amen.**

**The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

**Hymn We want to see Jesus lifted high**

We want to see Jesus lifted high  
A banner that flies across this land  
That all men might see the truth and know  
He is the way to Heaven  
  
We want to see we want to see  
We want to see Jesus lifted high  
We want to see we want to see  
We want to see Jesus lifted high

Step by step we're moving forward  
Little by little we're taking ground  
Every prayer is a powerful weapon  
Strongholds come tumbling down  
And down and down and down











