Trinity 16, Proper 21, Year A, 27.09.2020

*Who do you think you are?*

*Matthew 21.23-32*

 *Jesus is questioned about the nature and source of his authority.*

 *After testing his questioners, who decline to respond, Jesus also refuses to answer.*

 *Instead, he tells a parable about the priority of faithfulness and obedience over appearances.*

**Welcome and introduction**

Gathering Prayer:

God our Father, breaker of moulds, and giver of insight,

challenge our attitudes, discomfort our mindsets and soften our hearts

that we might see and respond to your purposes. **Amen.**

**Hymn Meekness and Majesty**

Meekness and majesty manhood and deity in perfect harmony the man who is God
lord of eternity dwells in humanity, kneels in humility and washes our feet

*O what a mystery meekness and majesty, bow down and worship for this is your God
This is your God*
Father's pure radiance perfect in innocence, yet learns obedience to death on a cross
suffering to give us life, conquering through sacrifice and as they crucify prays Father forgive

Wisdom unsearchable God the invisible, love indestructible in frailty appears
Lord of infinity stooping so tenderly lifts our humanity to the heights of His throne

Prayer of Confession

Dear God, forgive us when we say one thing but do another.
Forgive us when we let others down.
Grant us the wisdom to know when to change our minds,
and when to stick to our commitments.
We ask this 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*

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives’ end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Amen.**

**The Reading** Matthew 21: 23-32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?’ Jesus said to them, ‘I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?’ And they argued with one another, ‘If we say, “From heaven,” he will say to us, “Why then did you not believe him?” But if we say, “Of human origin,” we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.’ So they answered Jesus, ‘We do not know.’ And he said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.” He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.’

**Address**

**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.

**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 a ‘Yes’ for all those crying out for food and water.
We pray a ‘No’ to violence and war.
We pray a ‘Yes’ for those longing for freedom and work.
We pray a ‘No’ to abuse and bullying.
We pray a ‘Yes’ for those who need friends and help.
We pray a ‘No’ to cruelty and injustice.
We pray to you, God of all good and fair decisions.

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**

May God help you when it is difficult to make choices, so that you may choose the right thing to do. May God help you to keep your word when you promise to do something.

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 Jesus is Lord**

Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it,

for by his power each tree and flower was planned and made.

Jesus is Lord! The universe declares it -sun, moon and stars in heaven cry: `Jesus is Lord!'

Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord!

Praise him with alleluias, for Jesus is Lord.

Jesus is Lord! Yet from his throne eternal in flesh he came to die in pain on Calvary's tree.

Jesus is Lord! From him all life proceeding -yet gave his life a ransom thus setting us free.

Jesus is Lord! O'er sin the mighty conqueror;

from death he rose and all his foes shall own his name.

Jesus is Lord! God sends his Holy Spirit to show by works of power that Jesus is Lord.