

16TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Worshipping Together in Spirit

READINGS TODAY: Philippians 2. 1 – 13 // MATTHEW 21. 23 – 32

SETTING THE SCENE AND THE THEME

Here in Matthew 21 Jesus responds to the question put to him with a question of his own, and a parable to illustrate it.

The chief priests and elders ask Jesus where his authority comes from. His return-question is about John the Baptizer. He asks them if John's baptism came from heaven, or from the human mind? His question reverses the trap which the chief priests and elders are trying to set for Jesus. His accusers take the fifth, refusing to answer Jesus lest it incriminate them in the eyes of the crowds. So Jesus, in turn, doesn't answer their question about his authority either, but he does tell them a parable.

The parable sets up a comparison of two sons. One who says he will do what his father asks, but doesn't, with one who says he won't, but does. For every individual who hears this parable the comparison helps them (forces them) to ask the question, Which am I? Am I the son who presents himself as obedient while running around raising havoc, or am I the daughter who to all appearances is the "black sheep" but in the end does what is needed? Which am I? Which are you?

There is an accusation in the parable -- some who claim to obey the Father and observe the requirements of the Law fail, in actuality, to do so. Is this who we are, as believers -- as pastors, teachers, church council members and Sunday school teachers? Which am I?

There is also (again) a reversal of expectations in the parable -- those who are seen as the antithesis of the "good" believer, some who have failed to live in the right way, will be given entry to the kingdom of heaven first. Which are you?

Prepare to begin the service by saying the Lord's Prayer... then say:

“In the +Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Amen

KYRIES FOR THE TRINITY SEASON

Let us come before God in humility and contrition

When we forget you and abuse your grace and love,

May your loving mercy come to us, O Lord.
and your salvation according to your word:
Lord, have mercy.

When we put ourselves above others and deny our need for forgiveness
Bring us back to you, for your Word is a lantern to our feet
and a light to our pathway:
Christ, have mercy.

When indifference to the gospel distances us from the Kingdom,
May your mercy come to us that we may live
for your law is our delight
Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God,
Who forgives all those who truly repent,
Have mercy upon us, +forgive us our sins,
and bring us to life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE (GLORIA)

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT PRAYER

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you;
and grant that they may both perceive and know
what things they ought to do,
and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

BIBLE READING

Philippians 2.1-13

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.

⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21.23-32

²³When 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?' ²⁴Jesus 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. ²⁵Did 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?"' ²⁶But if we say, "Of human origin," we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' ²⁷So 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.'

²⁸What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." ²⁹He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. ³¹Which 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. ³²For 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.'

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray to the Lord who by his Gospel, we hear tell of the promise of the Kingdom; and who by his gracious love and mercy, nurtures it within us to live and grow in Word and Sacrament.

Lord, we pray that your Church may be a place of nurture and spiritual growth, that we may be instruments in sustaining and spreading your gospel and the hope of your Kingdom in heaven.

Lord hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord, nurture and sustain with your Kingdom vision those who govern us. Grant them humility so that they may be just and merciful in their care for the weak, the poor, and for those facing loss of employment and income.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for the world, created by your love,
and especially for those in particular need:

we lay before you the plight of those who cry out to you for aid and help:

in the Yemen, Syria, and amongst the refugees in Southeast Asia, and the Holy Land.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

At home and at work,
help us to share our faith through the example of our lives,
with those with whom we come into contact:
Bless, we pray, our parish and community.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord hear us as we pray for those known to us in present need: Peter Woodland and Dudley Guppy.

Lord, hear us as we pray for those whose illnesses or recovery are longer term.

Connie Glover, Peggy Pateman, Joyce Reeson, Ron Macey, Kevin Moss, Vera Osborne, Gordon Muspratt, Arthur Lightfoot, Robin Barker, Pat Foat, Doris Foat, and Christopher Browne.

Lord let your healing touch rest upon them, and in your merciful love, bring them to health and wholeness.

Heavenly Father, whose Son has borne our humanity into the heavenly realms,
and has gone before us to prepare a place for us;
hear us as we remember before you those whose earthly sojourn is over,
and whose lives we pray are now hidden in him with you:

We pray for the souls of the recently departed: Joyce Carrot and Joan Willatt.

And we pray also for those whose anniversaries of dying fall this week:

Patrick Lingard (Priest), Rebecca Adnitt (September 28th); Nora Peggs (29th) Annie Wherry, and Emma Woodcock (October 2nd).

+Rest Eternal grant unto them,

O Lord and let Light Perpetual shine upon them.

Make us joyful and expectant, that at his coming with all his own
we too may go forth to meet him, and share in his eternal joy.

*Jesus Lord of life, in your mercy hear us,
accept our prayers, and be with us always. Amen*

A FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And may the Peace of God,
which passes all understanding
keep your hearts in the knowledge and love of God
and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the +blessing of God Almighty
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with us all, evermore. Amen.

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*Based on a service written and produced by  
Fr. Chris Atkinson, Vicar of Bourne*