

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

PENITENTIAL RITE

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory with salvation for your people:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us... Amen.

THE GLORIA

Glorify God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory,

Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father you take away the sins of the world:

have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father

have mercy on us;

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.



OPENING PRAYER

O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING 1 Kings 3: 5.7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned.

Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great? It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked

for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 118:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130

R. Lord how I love your law!

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word. The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold. [R]

2. Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant. Let your love come to me and I shall live for your law is my delight. [R]

3. That is why I love your commands more than finest gold. That is why I rule my life by your precepts: I hate false ways. [R]

4. Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it. The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple. [R]

SECOND READING Romans 8: 28 - 30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 13: 44-52 (*shorter form 13:44-46)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.'

'Again the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 30th July 2023

We choose good or evil often in our lives. To follow something good, we reject paths which are less good. Following Christ means saying 'No' to other riches. The gospel today is a call to be joyful in giving up our bad habits for Jesus.

he said to them, 'Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

All bow for following three lines: and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters, May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.



What is my treasure in life?



Hidden treasure

The three short parables in today's Gospel - comparing the kingdom of heaven to treasure, a pearl and a fishing net - are unique to Matthew's Gospel. Jesus wants to show the disciples, and us, that the Kingdom of God is precious - so precious that its discovery requires us to put aside everything else in order to immerse ourselves wholeheartedly in it. We are called to set aside all self-interest, judgement, all our certainties and live the kingdom values of humility, openness and compassion. Jesus emphasises that 'kingdom people' "bring out of their treasure what is new and what is old". This would have resonated with Matthew's community, a mix of Jews and Gentiles who were discerning the parameters of this 'new' movement.

Perhaps the fishing parable, the last in this series of parables, holds the key. It echoes the tone of the parable of the weeds among the wheat - everything is gathered in, a variety, "good" and "bad" alike. As he addresses his disciples, Jesus is aware that they are not perfect. Like us all, they have flaws and weaknesses. Yet we are called to this wide-open vision of Jesus, where all are gathered and none are excluded, and the hidden treasures of the kingdom are revealed. The diversity of this gathering is seen in Jesus' outreach to all those considered 'outside', sinners and tax collectors, Roman centurions, lepers, traitors and deniers. All are gathered. Today, may we look at our own communities and reflect on who is welcome, who is 'invited'.

Jane Mellett & Triona Doherty are the authors of The Deep End - A Journey through the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Matthew, Messenger Publications, Dublin, 2022