

Contemplative Prayer Form

(18th Sunday after Pentecost - Year A)



The Liturgy Letter

Note: This is for individual or small group use. It is intended to be a form of contemplative “Lectio Divina” based on the scripture readings for the week and the themes of the liturgical season. Repetition, silence, and intercession are utilized to allow space for focus over a short or long period of time. It may be helpful to use your fingers to count the number of scripture phrases you utter during the times of repetition. The Scripture prayer section is structured for easy use with [Anglican Prayer Beads](#) for those who might find a tactile expression to be helpful (✙ = Cross ◉ = Invitatory bead ⚡ = Cruciform bead ● = Weeks bead).

Gospel Reading:

“Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

“The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. 36 Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said.

“But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. “Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

“He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“‘The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes’?

“Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about them. They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet. -Matthew 21:33-46 (NIV)

Scripture Prayer:

✝ The earth is the Lord's for he made it. Come, let us adore him.

☼ Lord, you are more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour out your mercy upon us through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

◇ The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.
-Psalm 19:1-2

- **Repeat Seven Times:**

The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul.

-Psalm 19:7

◇ The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.
-Psalm 19:8

- **Repeat Seven Times:**

The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.

-Psalm 19:9a

◇ Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.
-Psalm 80:7

- **Repeat Seven Times:**

Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.

-Psalm 19:13

◇ May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.
-Psalm 19:14

- **Repeat Seven Times:**

The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone...

-Matthew 21:42a

◇ Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.
-Philippians 3:13b-14

☼ *The Lord's Prayer*

✝ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.

Silence and Intercessions