

Contemplative Prayer Form

(16th 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).

Scripture Reading:

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

“About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

“‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. “He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go.

I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

"So the last will be first, and the first will be last." -Matthew 20:1-16 (NIV)

Scripture Prayer:

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

☼ O God, help us not to be anxious about earthly things, but to set our minds on lasting things; and to hold fast to what will endure. Amen.

◇ Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

-Psalm 105:1

- **Repeat Seven Times:**

Sing to him, sing praise to him...

-Psalm 105:2a

◇ Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

-Psalm 105:3

- **Repeat Seven Times:**

Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.

-Psalm 105:4

◇ Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,

-Psalm 105:5

- **Repeat Seven Times:**

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

-Psalm 145:8

◇ Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

-Psalm 145:3

- **Repeat Seven Times:**

"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

-Matthew 20:16

◇ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me...

-Philippians 1:21-22

☼ *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