

Contemplative Prayer Form

(19th Sunday after Pentecost - Year A)



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:

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

“Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’

“But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

“Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

“For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

-Matthew 22:1-14 (NIV)

Scripture Prayer:

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

☼ Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, and that you would empower us to continually be given to good works. Amen.

◇ The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters...

-Psalm 23:1-2a

- **Repeat Seven Times:**

....he refreshes my soul....

-Psalm 23:2b

◇ He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley...

-Psalm 23:3-4a

- **Repeat Seven Times:**

I will fear no evil, for you are with me...

-Psalm 23:4b

◇ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

-Psalm 23:5a

- **Repeat Seven Times:**

...your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

-Psalm 23:4b

◇ Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

-Psalm 106:1

- **Repeat Seven Times:**

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

-Psalm 23:5b

◇ Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

-Psalm 23:6

☼ *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