Contemplative Prayer Form

(24th 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: "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

"The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

"Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

"'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' -Matthew 25:14-30 (NIV)

Scripture Prayer:

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

❂ Lord, grant that we would hear and digest your Holy Scriptures. Help us to embrace the hope of everlasting life. Amen.

◇ Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.
-Psalm 90:1

> **● Repeat Seven Times:**
> I lift up my eyes to you
> -Psalm 123:1

◇ ...our eyes look to the Lord our God, till he shows us his mercy.
-Psalm 123:2b

> **● Repeat Seven Times:**
> Have mercy on us, Lord...
> -Psalm 123:3a

◇ Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
-Psalm 90:2

> **● Repeat Seven Times:**
> Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
> -Psalm 90:12

◇ Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.
-1 Thessalonians 5:5b

> **● Repeat Seven Times:**
> We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.
> -Matthew 25:13

◇ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.
-1 Thessalonians 5:8-9

❂ *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