

Contemplative Prayer Form

17th 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: Matthew 21:23-32 (NIV)

Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?” Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.”

Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

“‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

“Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

“Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

Scripture Prayer:

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

✙ O God, you demonstrate your power by showing mercy and pity. Grant us your grace, that we may love others in the same way that you have loved us. Amen.

◇ I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause.

-Ps. 25:2-3

- **Repeat Seven Times:**

In you, Lord my God, I put my trust.

-Psalm 25:1

◇ Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.

-Psalm 25:5-6

- **Repeat Seven Times:**

Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.

-Psalm 25:4

◇ Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good.

-Psalm 25:7

- **Repeat Seven Times:**

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.

-Psalm 25:8

◇ He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful...

-Psalm 25:9-10

- **Repeat Seven Times:**

He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant...

-Philippians 2:7

◇ At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

-Philippians 2:1-11

✙ *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