

Contemplative Prayer Form

Seventh 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: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (NIV)

Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’

“‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.

“The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

“‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”

Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.” He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

“As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

Scripture Prayer:

✝ Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Come, let us adore him.

☼ Almighty God, you know our needs before we ask and our ignorance in asking. Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness, we cannot ask. Amen.

◇ You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down...
-Ps. 139:1-3

- **Repeat Seven Times:**

...you are familiar with all my ways...

-Psalm 139:3b

◇ Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

-Psalm 139:4-5

- **Repeat Seven Times:**

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

-Psalm 139:6

◇ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

-Psalm 139:13

- **Repeat Seven Times:**

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made...

-Psalm 139:14a

◇ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

-Psalm 139:15

- **Repeat Seven Times:**

Your works are wonderful, I know that full well...

-Psalm 139:14b

◇ How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—when I awake, I am still with you.

-Psalm 139:17-18

☼ *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

God our Savior, all creation groans for your return. Set us free from our bondage to decay. Gather all creation into your care. ...

Come, Holy Spirit, free us from a spirit of slavery and give us the fortitude to wait patiently...

Jesus, help us to hear and understand your word about your kingdom...

Holy Spirit, give boldness to your church in this place and around the world. Help us to understand that there is no God but you ...

Father, gently support those who are suffering. Reveal your glory through them...

For families and friends, for all who have asked for our prayers and who pray for us ...

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.