

Readings, Hymns and Propers for 26th July 2020, Trinity 7

Hymn:

The kingdom of God is justice and joy,
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall
grow.

The kingdom of God is mercy and grace,
the captives are freed, the sinners find
place,
the outcast are welcomed God's banquet to
share,
and hope is awakened instead of despair.

The kingdom of God is challenge and
choice,
believe the good news, repent and rejoice.
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his
cross,
our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come, the gift and the
goal,
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom shall answer his
call,
and all things cry glory to God all in all.

Bryn Rees (1911-1983) © Alexander Scott

Collect: Lord of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Reading: A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans:

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, ³⁹nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8. 26-39

Gospel:

31 Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; 32 it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' 33 He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.

44 The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; 48 when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50 and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

51 Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' 52 And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

Matthew 13. 31-33,44-52

Post Communion Prayer:

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life,
 ever giving himself that the world may live:
 may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion
 that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love;
 for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

Hymn:

All my hope on God is founded;
 He doth still my trust renew.
 Me through change and chance he guideth,
 Only good and only true.
 God unknown,
 He alone
 Calls my heart to be his own.

Daily doth the almighty giver
 Bounteous gifts on us bestow;
 His desire our soul delighteth,
 Pleasure leads us where we go.
 Love doth stand
 At his hand;
 Joy doth wait on his command.

God's great goodness ay endureth,
 Deep his wisdom, passing thought:
 Splendour, light, and life attend him,
 Beauty springeth out of nought.
 Evermore,
 From his store
 New-born worlds rise and adore.

Still from man to God eternal
 Sacrifice of praise be done,
 High above all praises praising
 For the gift of Christ his Son.
 Christ doth call
 One and all:
 Ye who follow shall not fall.

*Meine Hoffnung stehet feste Joachim Neander
 (1650-1680)
 paraphrased Robert Bridges (1844-1930)*