



The Kingdom Parables of Jesus: The Two Sons

Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.”
(*Matt 21:31*)

Call to Worship

Behold, God is our salvation;
We will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD God is our strength and our song,
and he has become our salvation.

Isa 12:2

**Sing praises to the LORD,
for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.**

Isa 12:5

Let us pray.

**May the words of our mouths
and the meditations of our hearts
be acceptable in your sight,
our Rock and our Redeemer.**

Ps 19:14

Amen.

All people that on earth do dwell (Psalm 100)

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell,
Come ye before him and rejoice.

O enter then his gates with praise,
Approach with joy his courts unto:
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid he did us make:
We are his flock, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.

For why? the Lord our God is good,
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

Confession and Assurance

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matt 22:37-40)

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion.**

God’s word tells us:

*“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* 1 Jn 1:8-10

Therefore, let us confess our sins against God, and against our neighbour,
first aloud together and then in silence.

Please kneel or be seated.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty and most merciful God,

**We confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean,
and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed;
not only in outward transgressions, but also in secret thoughts and desires
that we are not able to understand, but which are all known to You.
For this reason, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy,
seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

We pause for personal prayers of confession, and will then conclude together...

**O Lord, we give you thanks for your kindness and abundant pardon;
provided through your Son, who has died for us, taking the penalty which was
our due.
Grant, most merciful Lord, that we may hereafter
live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

*"But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him
was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we
like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD
has laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isa 53:5-6)*

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

God's grace first taught my heart to fear,
His grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe this far
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
My shield and great reward is he
As long as life endures.

And when this mortal life is past
And earthly days shall cease,
I shall possess with Christ at last
Eternal joy and peace.

The earth will soon dissolve like snow,
The sun no longer shine;
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine.

John Newton (1779)

Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”
**Our feet have been standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem!**

Jerusalem—built as a city
that is bound firmly together,
to which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord,
as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
**There thrones for judgement were set,
the thrones of the house of David.**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!
“May they be secure who love you!”
**Peace be within your walls
and security within your towers!”**

For my brothers and companions' sake
I will say, “Peace be within you!”
**For the sake of the house of the Lord
our God, I will seek your good.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
**As it was in the beginning, is now, and
shall be forever, age after age. Amen!**

God's Word

First Reading: Matt 3:1-12, p. 808

This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Matt 21:23-32, p. 827

This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Sermon: The Two Sons (David Thornhill-Smith)

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me,
save that thou art.
Thou my best thought
by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping,
thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom,
and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and
thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father
and I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling,
and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield,
sword for my fight;
Be thou my dignity,
thou my delight,

Thou my soul's shelter
and thou my high tow'r:
Raise thou me heav'n-ward,
O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not,
nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance,
now and always:
Thou and thou only
the first in my heart,
High King of heaven,
my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven,
my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys,
O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart,
whatever befall,
Still be my vision,
O Ruler of all.

*Public Domain (Eleanor Henrietta Hull,
Mary Elizabeth Byrne)*

Creed (Heidelberg Catechism)

Believer, what is your only comfort in life and in death?

**That I, with body and soul, both in life and in death,
am not my own, but belong to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ,
who with His precious blood has fully satisfied for all my sins,
and redeemed me from all the power of the devil;
and so preserves me that without the will of my Father in heaven
not a hair can fall from my head;
indeed, that all things must work together for my salvation.
Wherefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life,
and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live unto Him.**

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

Psalm 67

O God, to us show mercy
And bless us in your grace;
Cause now to shine upon us
The brightness of your face;
That so your way most holy
On earth may soon be known,
And unto every people
Your saving grace be shown.

O God, let all men praise you,
Let all the nations sing;
In every land let praises
And songs of gladness ring;

For you shall judge the people
In truth and righteousness,
And you shall lead the nations
Your justice to confess.

Let all the peoples praise you,
All tongues and tribes should sing,
For earth in rich abundance
To us her fruit shall bring.
The Lord our God shall bless us;
Let all the earth maintain
The praise it owes its Maker,
The reverence due His name.

Benediction

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the Name of Christ, Amen.

Kingdom Parables of Jesus

Kingdom Growth & Judgement (ch. 13)

- Sower. Word is spread; wheat and weeds spring up.
- Weeds. Harvest and separation will come; AD 70 and end of days.
- Mustard Seed. Huge growth; birds (peoples, nations) benefit significantly.
- Leaven. Invisible spread; spiritual kingdom found in all human kingdoms.

Kingdom Fruitfulness & Judgement (ch. 21, 22)

- **Fig Tree. The temple system is cleansed and judged.**
 - **Arrival of the Promised King (v. 1-11)**
 - **Cleansing by the Priest-King (v. 12-17)**
 - **Judgement of the King (v. 18-22)**
- Two Sons.
- Tenants.
- Wedding Feast.

Kingdom Citizens & Final Judgement (ch. 25)

- Ten Virgins.
- Talents.

Notices

Please diarise and pray for the items below:

NEXT WEEK		
Sun 28th August	Morning Worship	Matt 21:33-46, "The Tenants"

FURTHER AHEAD		
Thu 22nd Sep	Annual Church Mtg	Please diarise