

Mears Ashby and Hardwick and Sywell with Overstone



**Prayers and Reflections
for use at home**

Sunday 12 July 2026

Trinity 6

Welcome to this week's prayers and reflections. In our Gospel Reading Jesus tells one of best known parables – the Parable of the Sower – and, later, explains its meaning to the disciples. It is a parable that can be explored in different ways. Today, we are looking at the actions of the farmer sowing the seeds – his wastefulness.

May our Lord's parable fill you with joy and hope.

Every blessing,

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As you prepare to listen to our Lord's parable, take a moment to contemplate the generosity of God's love and care.



Great is thy faithfulness! O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.

Thomas Obadiah Chisholm (1866-1960)

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CCLI reported

Prayers and Reflections
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Wastefulness

PREPARING OURSELVES

Take a moment to be still in God's presence and feel his love. If you are indoors, you may wish to light a candle as a sign of God's love - here, in your room. You may also wish to have a bowl of water ready for the time of letting go. When you are ready, say this opening prayer.

Lord, as I sit and wait in silence,
I place my hopes and dreams,
my fears and concerns,
into your safe and loving hands.
Enfold me with your love,
make my heart beat in time with yours;
in Jesus' name,
I pray. **Amen.**

LETTING GO

If you come to this time of prayer and reflection with any regrets, with things that you wish you had not said, done or been, offer them to God in the silence of your heart. And then, reflect on the words of the chorus of this week's hymn.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Thomas Obadiah Chisholm (1866-1960)

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*If you wish, dip your finger into a bowl of water and make the sign of the cross on your palm.
Feel God's forgiveness.*

Our chorus speaks of God's great faithfulness to us. Daily, if we have a heart to feel, ears to hear and eyes to see, we will spot God at work in our lives and in the lives of those around us. We will recognise the gifts, the blessings, that he is pouring upon us.



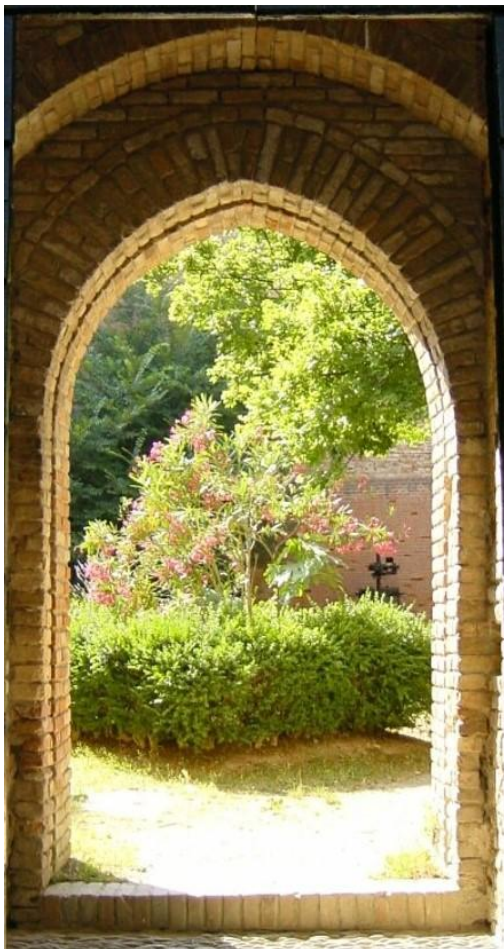
It can be the words that we need to hear to guide us through a tough and challenging season. Our hope dawns.

It can be a friend or confidante who will listen attentively as we share what is on our heart. Our burden lightens.

It can be the feeling that God has heard our confession, seen our remorse, and has forgiven us. Our shame dissolves.

It can be the joy of looking out onto our garden and spotting something new and amazing. Our heart lifts.

Take a moment to think about the generosity of God's providing. Offer your praise and your prayerful requests. God is listening.



Lord, thank you that you are all we need.

You give us forgiveness for our inner wellbeing.

You give us sabbath for our work-life balance.

You give us prayer for our need of mindfulness.

You give us the example of Jesus for our fulfilment.

You give us the power of the Spirit for our lifestyle choices.

You give us the love of the Creator for our motivation.

Lord, you are the door that leads to life.

Amen.

PRAYING TODAY'S PRAYER

(The Collect)

Across our villages and the worldwide Church, this prayer is being said today. Add your voice to this earthly circle of prayer to our God whose love is unbreakable.

Creator God,
you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Each week, we join in praying the Collect - the prayer for the week - which is designed to gather up all of our thoughts and guide our worship. Today's is a beautiful example of this. It goes to the heart of our faith, to who we are and who God is to us. We are all made in our Father's image. It is as if we carry his DNA of love within us. If we can discern him as each new day begins - progresses - draws to a close, we will be able to live as he would love us to do. We will be the best version of ourselves whoever we are with. We will truly serve him by reflecting his love, compassion, grace and forgiveness. We will be generous as he is generous.

Pause to think about this phrase – may we discern you in all that we see. God is in everyone and present in every situation. God is all around us, generously speaking into our hearts and our daily lives. Things go wrong when we fail to listen to him, when we fail to see the God-ness that is in those we struggle to welcome with love. Prayerfully ponder this.



Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Thomas Obadiah Chisholm (1866-1960)

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The Parable of the Sower

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: 'A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear.'

'Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: when anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.'

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Wastefulness...

Take a close look at the farmer in this parable. Notice how he is sowing the seeds – his precious grain. We might think that he is being careless as the seed is landing everywhere: on the path, on the rocky areas, among the weeds as well as on the waiting earth. So much waste? But is it? Is it waste? If we think of the seeds as his words of faith, it opens our eyes to what God is doing. God speaks to everyone. Everyone. Ponder this. God's desire is to draw everyone into his kingdom of love and peace, justice and hope. All are invited. Not all listen... receive... retain.

God knows that this might happen. BUT! But it doesn't stop him trying, trying to reach those who are too hard of heart or too engrossed in life's pleasures to wonder about the provider of all that is.

God is the God of 'If'. If I speak, maybe they will listen. If I provide, perhaps they will notice that I am.

It is not waste because God loves. Every word of his, every act of his is a moment when one of his beloved children might turn their face to him, open their heart and soul to him. If this happens, God rejoices. If it doesn't, would God give up?

Every moment can be prayer – a time to listen to
and receive from God.

Every place can contain parable – revealing
and teaching God's ways.

Everything can be a taste of heaven -
an opportunity to experience God's love.

No! God will not waste us. He will keep trying. Keep blessing.



Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Thomas Obadiah Chisholm (1866-1960)

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OUR PRAYERS

Feel free to use one or more of these prayers and to add your own.

Lord Jesus, you gave us the Parable of the Sower to open our ears, our hearts to the abundance of God's speaking. Lord, forgive the times when I fail to listen and learn, when I fail to respond with thankfulness...

Lord, hear my prayer.

Lord Jesus, you came to teach us that God speaks to everyone, all who are made in his image. We are all welcome in his kingdom of love and peace. Lord, open the eyes of those who persecute others...

Lord, hear my prayer.

Lord Jesus, you came to speak words of love to those who felt unlovable, words of welcome to those who felt forgotten. Lord, speak to those who are lost and alone, hurting and broken. Open their hearts...

Lord, hear my prayer.

Offer your own heartfelt prayers and yearnings, praise and thanksgivings.

The Lord's Prayer

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.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF BLESSING

A closing prayer of blessing for this week.

O God, you search me and you know me,
all my thoughts and feelings are open to your gaze,
you see the paths I will take before I take them. Guide my daily living.
Bless me and keep my loved ones safe, I pray. **Amen.**