

## The Vine at Home

### 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year B

#### Call to worship

Happy are we as we tread your path, O God

May we delight in your words, and meditate on the ways that you will speak to us during this act of worship, so that when we go out, inspired and challenged by what we have heard, we do so like fruitful trees, ready to prosper for you. Amen.<sup>1</sup>

#### Hymn: 570 StF – As we gather, Father seal us

#### Opening Prayers

Loving parent God, we praise and thank you,

You do us good not harm, all the days of our lives.

You provide food for our households, with the fruits of your hands.

You open your hand to the poor, and reach out to the needy.

You open your mouth with wisdom, and the teachings of kindness are on your tongue.

Loving parent God, we praise and thank you  
for all the ways you provide for us,  
for all the ways you encourage us,  
for all the ways you show us how to live.

Help us to live according to your example, so that our very lives are an act of praise to you. Amen

#### A prayer of confession

All wise, all loving God, we confess to you our reliance on our own wisdom.

We covet what we do not have and compromise ourselves to obtain it

Forgive us, God.

We engage in conflicts and disputes, and allow our disagreements to overtake us,

Forgive us, God.

We envy others, and allow our own selfish ambition to rule our hearts,

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<sup>1</sup> Call to Worship written by Melissa Quinn

Forgive us God.

We yearn to be the greatest, and to lift ourselves up in power and glory,

Forgive us, God.

Forgive us, and sow in us a harvest of righteousness.

Help us to receive your forgiveness and wisdom, and let your grace within us, be pure, peaceable, gentle, and willing to yield.

As we know ourselves to be forgiven, may we bring your mercy and good fruits to others, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy, but with the gentleness and wisdom you dare give. Amen.<sup>2</sup>

### **Let us now say the Lord's Prayer**

#### **Readings: Proverbs 31:10-31**

**James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a**

**Mark 9:30-37**

#### **Reflections on the reading**

So, what if God's good news involves us giving up our power and our privilege in some way?

Just like the disciples in today's gospel, realising that the status we have been chasing is in fact meaningless can be difficult. The gospel presents us with a costly task: to abandon our worldly understanding of greatness.

This might mean we give away our time and our money to others who have less than us. This might mean we stop talking and let marginalised people speak up. This might mean we go out into our communities to listen, really listen, to the needs of the people who live alongside us. This might mean we change our systems or our language or our traditions to allow all people to participate.

Let us pause for a moment to reflect on whether one of these challenges is the one we face. What do we need to 'give up' or 'let go of'?

*[Pause for reflection. You could play some quiet / reflective music].*

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<sup>2</sup> Opening prayers written by Melissa Quinn

But if we can do this, we will find our lives and communities fuller and richer – we will find we are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season. We will find grace pouring into our lives, affirming us, empowering us, as we join in with God’s mission of Kingdom building in the world.

### **Prayers of intercession**

Christ of welcome, who calls us to embrace you in our lives, we bring before you our prayers.

We pray for our world, for people living with injustice, for places of conflict, for all who do not have enough, for a safe place to live, For the continued global struggle with Covid-19

Servant Lord, **Welcome all to you**

We pray for the places where we live, for people living in poverty, for those reliant on food banks and benefits, for anyone charged with making decisions that affect others,

Servant Lord, **Welcome all to you**

We pray for those known to us, for all who are grieving in many different ways, for anyone struggling with their mental or physical health, for those for whom life is difficult at the moment,

Servant Lord, **Welcome all to you**

We pray for the people, places and situations on our hearts:

*Silence*

Servant Lord, **Welcome all to you**

Christ of welcome, may all who need to hear your invitation, fall into your open arms, and discover your love for themselves. In your name we pray. Amen.<sup>3</sup>

**Hymn: 611 StF – Brother, sister, let me serve you**

### **Blessing**

Servant Lord, let us welcome you into our hearts,  
And in doing so inspire us to serve others, and welcome all as children of God.  
In your name. Amen.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Prayers of intercession written by Melissa Quinn

<sup>4</sup> Additional prayers by Melissa Quinn