

CALL TO PRAYER

Begin by calling upon God: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Let us pause for a moment, and listen attentively to this week's passage.



THE WORD OF GOD

Matthew 13:44-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away. Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the **righteous** and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.

"Do you understand all these things?" They answered, "Yes." And he replied, "Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old."

The Gospel of the Lord

FAITH SHARING

Questions of the Week

Choose one

1. If the "treasure" is the Kingdom of God, what do you do to secure it once you have found it?
2. What things – tangible or intangible – stand between you and "the pearl of great price"?
3. When have you felt that the "treasure" of God's love was buried in a field? What character traits help a person to find this buried treasure?
4. How do I show that I am thankful for the blessings I have?
5. What are we doing to prepare for the final judgment when the "wicked" will be separated from the "righteous"? How do we root out the "wickedness" in our lives?



Thanks to the Mom's Prayer Group for these questions.

CLOSING PRAYER

God our protector, without you nothing is holy, nothing has value. Guide us to everlasting life by helping us to use wisely the blessings you have given to the world. We ask this, as we ask all things, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

GOSPEL WORD SEARCH

H S C T J B M S S H
 S Z E E U A W L U E
 O T S L T J D E O A
 S U E T P G A G E V
 S T H K B I V N T E
 D E O T C V C A H N
 W Q J R E U L S G Z
 E Y M E E E B O I U
 O Y V A P R T L R D
 H O U S E H O L D D
 J E O U C I I O L R
 R G W R A Z I O M S
 F D Z E N E M A P C
 V P E A R L S C R R
 D E T C U R T S N I
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 M O D G N I K E E E
 E R O H S A J N M A
 W I C K E D L E I F
 Y A T R W T K K W O

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| ANGELS | KINGDOM |
| ASHORE | MATTHEW |
| BUCKETS | NEW |
| DISCIPLES | OLD |
| FIELD | PEARLS |
| FURNACE | RIGHTEOUS |
| GOSPEL | SCRIBE |
| HEAVEN | STOREROOM |
| HOUSEHOLD | TEETH |
| INSTRUCTED | TREASURE |
| JESUS | WICKED |

GOSPEL GLOSSARY

The **righteous** are the people who do what is right and good.