

Readings and hymns for Sunday 19th July 2020

First Reading

Psalm 139

- 1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 For there is not a word on my tongue,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You encompass me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
so high that I cannot attain it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand shall lead me,
your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me
and the light around me turn to night,'
- 11 Even darkness is no darkness with you;
the night is as clear as the day;
darkness and light to you are both alike.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

○ God you search me and you know me

- 1 O God, you search me and you know me.
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me:
ever the maker and keeper of my days.
- 2 You know my resting and my rising.
You discern my purpose from afar.
And with love everlasting you besiege me:
in ev'ry moment of life and death, you are.
- 3 Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,
you have known its meaning through and through.
You are with me, beyond my understanding:
God of my present, my past and future, too.
- 4 Although your Spirit is upon me,
still I search for shelter from your light.
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:
even the darkness is radiant in your sight.
- 5 For you created me and shaped me,
gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:
safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

Bernadette Farrell (b.1957) from Psalm 139

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Gospel

Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'

'Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the

word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

I, the Lord of sea and sky

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?
*Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?
Chorus

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?
Chorus