

Matthew 13:24-30

Lord, we lift you up in all we do, I pray that my words give you glory. Amen

What wonderful readings we had today so much to say about all, hard to decide what say.

Someone recently said to me that we spent so much time reading about God in many books but spending little time in the bible. So, I thought this morning would spend some time in one of our readings.

We are going to do some Lectio Divina.

The phrase lectio Divina means “divine reading” in Latin and is a fitting name for this prayer practice of listening to Scripture with the ear of the heart. Lectio divina is **a dialogue with God through Scripture** that includes the whole self: thoughts, images, memories, desires, etc. The movements within lectio divina involve reading, listening to, responding to and resting in the Word of God. It can be practiced alone or with a community.

Matthew 13:24-30 will be read 3 time. Before each reading I will ask a question for you to think about as you listen.

1st reading sit comfortably. As I read the passage “what does the parable mean to you?”

The Parable of Weeds among the Wheat

²⁴ He put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, “Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?” ²⁸ He answered, “An enemy has done this.” The slaves said to him, “Then do you want us to go and gather them?” ²⁹ But he replied, “No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until

the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”

“What does the parable mean to you?” “What would you have wanted to do when you see the weeds?”

Pause count to 10

This time the same verses will be read again from a different bible version, and different person. This time listening for a word or phrase that stands out to you, makes you stop and wonder?

Eva will read.

²⁴⁻²⁶ He told another story. “God’s kingdom is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. That night, while his hired men were asleep, his enemy sowed thistles all through the wheat and slipped away before dawn. When the first green shoots appeared and the grain began to form, the thistles showed up, too.

²⁷ “The farmhands came to the farmer and said, ‘Master, that was clean seed you planted, wasn’t it? Where did these thistles come from?’

²⁸ “He answered, ‘Some enemy did this.’

“The farmhands asked, ‘Should we weed out the thistles?’

²⁹⁻³⁰ “He said, ‘No, if you weed the thistles, you’ll pull up the wheat, too. Let them grow together until harvest time. Then I’ll instruct the harvesters to pull up the thistles and tie them in bundles for the fire, then gather the wheat and put it in the barn.’”

Was there a word or phrase that spoke to you?

Pause and count to 10

The last time I read the passage “what is God wanting you to think about or do?” “What is God asking us at St. Brice’s to do?”

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What does this parable mean? Scripture gives us so much to think about, especially the parables. I leave you to think about this parable.

Jesus, I confess I don't always understand what you try to explain in the parables, as I spend more time in the Word the more, I slowly understand.

Now as we prepare to go into the coming day, the Lord who loves us says in Psalm 119:130

The unfolding of your **words** gives light; it imparts **understanding** to all.

Father, help me to live this day to the full, being true to You, in every way.

Jesus, help me to give myself away to others, being kind to everyone I meet.

Spirit, help me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say.

Amen