

**Prayer and Readings for the  
SIXTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST  
16 JULY 2017**

**Prayer of the day**

Bountiful God,  
we thank you for planting in us the seed of  
your word:  
by your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with  
joy, and to live according to it,  
that we may grow in faith and hope and love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

**Genesis 25.19-34**

<sup>19</sup> These are the descendants of Isaac,  
Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of  
Isaac,

<sup>20</sup> and Isaac was forty years old when he  
married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the  
Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the  
Aramean.

<sup>21</sup> Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife,  
because she was barren; and the Lord  
granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah  
conceived.

<sup>22</sup> The children struggled together within her;  
and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I  
live?' So she went to inquire of the Lord .

<sup>23</sup> And the Lord said to her,  
'Two nations are in your womb, and two  
peoples born of you shall be divided;  
one shall be stronger than the other,  
the elder shall serve the younger.'

<sup>24</sup> When her time to give birth was at hand,  
there were twins in her womb.

<sup>25</sup> The first came out red, all his body like a  
hairy mantle; so they named him Esau.

<sup>26</sup> Afterwards his brother came out, with his  
hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named  
Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she  
bore them.

<sup>27</sup> When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents.

<sup>28</sup> Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

<sup>29</sup> Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished.

<sup>30</sup> Esau said to Jacob, 'Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!' (Therefore he was called Edom.)

<sup>31</sup> Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.'

<sup>32</sup> Esau said, 'I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?'

<sup>33</sup> Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.

<sup>34</sup> Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

### **Colossians 3:12-15**

<sup>12</sup> As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

### **Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23**

<sup>1</sup> That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake.

<sup>2</sup> Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach.

<sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow.

<sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered

away.

<sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.

<sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

<sup>9</sup> Let anyone with ears listen!'

<sup>18</sup> 'Hear then the parable of the sower.

<sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

<sup>21</sup> 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.

<sup>22</sup> 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.

<sup>23</sup> 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.'