

26th July – St Margaret of Antioch

Collect

Almighty God, who gave grace to your servant Margaret to suffer for the sake of your Son: Grant that we, following her example, may be kept steadfast in the faith and ever rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Psalm 119.129-136

our decrees are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them. The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple. With open mouth I pant, because I long for your commandments. Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your custom towards those who love your name. Keep my steps steady according to your promise, and never let iniquity have dominion over me. Redeem me from human oppression, that I may keep your precepts. Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes. My eyes shed streams of tears because your law is not kept.

Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.' 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

Post Communion

God our redeemer, who inspired Margaret to witness to your love and to work for the coming of your kingdom: may we, who in this sacrament have tasted the bread of life, be strengthened by your grace to walk in the way of holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Readings for the week ahead:

Monday 27th July

Psalms 27, 30; 1 Samuel 14.24-46;
Luke 23.13-25.

Tuesday 28th July

Psalms 32, 36; 1 Samuel 15.1-23;
Luke 23.26-43.

Wednesday 29th July

Psalm 34; 1 Samuel 16; Luke 23.44-56a.

Thursday 30th July

Psalm 37; 1 Samuel 17.1-30;
Luke 23.56b-24.12.

Friday 31st July

Psalm 31; 1 Samuel 17.31-54;
Luke 24.13-35.

Saturday 1st August

Psalms 41, 42, 43; 1 Samuel 17.55-18.16;
Luke 24.36-end.