

The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

2nd August 2026

In the name of the + Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.



Prayer of Preparation

Holy God,
faithful and unchanging:
enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth,
and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,
that we may truly worship you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

HYMN

1 Blest are the pure in heart,
For they shall our God,
The secret of the Lord is theirs,
Their soul is Christ's abode

3 Still to the lowly soul
Himself He will impart,
and for His dwelling and His throne
chooses the pure in heart.

2 The Lord, who left the heavens
our life and peace to bring,
to dwell in lowliness with us,
our pattern and our King;

4 Lord, we Your presence seek —
we ask this blessing, too;
give us a pure and lowly heart,
a temple meet for You.

Confession

Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive us our sins, +
open our eyes to God's truth,
strengthen us to do God's will
and give us the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Collect

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

First Scripture Reading Isaiah 55. 1-5

An Invitation to Abundant Life

55 Hear, everyone who thirsts;
 come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread
 and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.
³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.
⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.
⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know,
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ The LORD is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.

¹⁰ All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your faithful shall bless you.

¹¹ They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
and tell of your power,

¹² to make known to all people your mighty deeds
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.

¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all
generations.

The LORD is faithful in all his words
and gracious in all his deeds. ^[d]

¹⁴ The LORD upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.

¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.

¹⁶ You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷ The LORD is just in all his ways
and kind in all his doings.

¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

¹⁹ He fulfils the desire of all who fear him;
he also hears their cry and saves them.

²⁰ The LORD watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.

²¹ My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,
and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.

¹⁷ The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and faithful in all he does.

¹⁸ The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

¹⁹ He fulfils the desires of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.



Second Scripture Romans 9. 1-5

God's Election of Israel

⁹ I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own brothers and sisters, my own flesh and blood. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵ to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

HYMN

1 God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea
and rides upon the storm.

2 Deep in unfathomable mines
of never-failing skill;
He treasures up His bright designs,
and works His sovereign will.

3 Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
the clouds ye so much dread
are big with mercy and shall break
in blessings on your head.

4 Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
but trust Him for His grace;
behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face

5 His purposes will ripen fast,
unfolding every hour;
the bud may have a bitter taste,
but sweet will be the flower.

6 Blind unbelief is sure to err,
and scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
and He will make it plain.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the light of the world, those who follow me
will never walk in darkness.

Alleluia.

The Gospel

The holy Gospel is written in the 14th Chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew beginning at the 13th verse.

Glory be to thee, O Lord

¹³ When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

¹⁵ As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

¹⁶ Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

¹⁷ "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

¹⁸ "Bring them here to me," he said. ¹⁹ And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ²¹ The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise be to thee, O Christ

Reflection

All four gospels recount the miraculous feeding of great. Significantly occasions to mainly to a Jewish crowd and on others in an area with a large Gentile population. Put together, is there somewhere at the back of them the suggestion, and the forecast and symbol, that Jesus came to satisfy the hunger of Jew

and Gentile alike? That in Him is presented the God who opens His hand and who satisfied the desire of every living thing?

How do we read the miracles of Jesus? For some there is no need to understand, they simply are. Others feel that they must understand and certainly we find that God comes to meet the questioning mind. But we must never just read them as something that *happened* but something that *happens*. All of scripture requires us to inhabit, to enter, to hold, and think about it. The scripture does not give itself up easily, cheaply, or ever completely. It requires us to recall, reflect, ruminate, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest.

However many times we hear this account if we allow, by giving our attention, it will reveal a new truth and nuanced meaning, for it is a living word inspired by the Spirit of God to bring us into revelation.

So, how do you and I hear this familiar passage now? Is it simply a miraculous multiplication of food? Do we see it as a sacrament? All present received a tiny morsel and yet they are strengthened for the journey and were content. Is it not about satisfying a physical appetite, but a meal where they ate the spiritual food of Christ? Or was the miracle an act of social blessing? As Jesus began to share the loaves and fish, others began to share what food they had in reserve and there was enough for all and more.

The heart of the miracle was that people were changed by the presence of Christ and so are we all. Where Christ is, there the weary find rest and the hungry soul is fed.

This is the greatest and best invitation. Jesus seeing our need has compassion on us. We are not ignored, or turned away to find our own, hungry way home. Rather we are invited to sit and rest.

God regards us, gazes at us, with unconditional loving regard. Hold this story in your imagination and hear Jesus inviting you to sit on the green grass, see him giving you not just food but himself to you as your friend.

Learning to respond to our creator is what this pilgrimage, this journey of faith is all about. It is not a finished deal; we have not got Jesus all sorted out and neatly filed in our lives. I think that very often we are like the disciples of Jesus at this moment point in time. We only understand the tip of the iceberg of what and who Jesus is and what it means to have thrown in our lot with him. That's not good language but I expect you know what I mean.

So, who is this Jesus? Your response will be your own. Your emphasis will be different to mine; it is unique to each one of us. But it is out of that response that we live out our Christian lives, our lives as disciples, followers.

Why was Jesus able to take ordinary everyday bread and make it feed a multitude? How is it that men and women the world over find Jesus indeed to be the bread of life – that which satisfies and nourishes in a way that nothing else can? How was he able to walk into the middle of chaos and fear and bring calm and peace to his friends in the storm on the lake?

It is because Jesus brings the presence of God.

As St Paul says elsewhere, this is my goal 'that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, not that I have achieved this, but I press on towards the goal of the knowledge and the love of God in Christ Jesus.'

We get there as we grow in our understanding of his love which, he says is actually unknowable. Now there is a thought to wrestle with, something so immense and deep that we will never fathom it – and yet we can be part of it. This love has a length and breadth which includes everything, all creation nothing can be outside.

It is out of this that we are to live. Nothing can happen to us that is outside of this love, nor to anyone or anything we love. We cannot be lost or cast aside; all creation from the planets to the smallest atom is known and held.

*Blessed is the man who loves thee O God
for he alone loses nothing that is dear to him
for all are dear to thee that, art never lost. St Augustine*

The Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Intercessions

Father in heaven, look with mercy on the Church
proclaiming your beloved Son to the world
and listening to the promptings of the Spirit.
May the Church be renewed in holiness
that may reflect your glory.

Look with compassion on the nations of the world,
scarred by hatred, strife and war,
and crying out to be changed.

This world is yours and all those who dwell in it.
Hear us as we pray for the life and wellbeing of our world.
That every nation may seek the way that leads to peace
That human rights and freedom may everywhere be respected
and the earth's resources may fairly and generously be shared among all.

We hold in prayer those for whom we have concern
that they may know your compassion.
We think of our own needs and concerns,
those things which weigh heavily upon us this day,
those issues and decisions which trouble us.
Your care is for each one of us and your healing love is for all who will respond.

Father, you are God of the living not the dead.
In the transfiguration of Jesus both the living and the dead were present.
We hold in prayer those who have died this night and those who mourn,
those we remember and love still.
Though they have passed from this life they are held in you love.
Forgive our anxiousness and fear in the face of death,
ease aching hearts as we place our dead again in your creative love
and change us by the reality of Jesus 'resurrection.

Eternal God and Father
Open our hearts and minds to your presence within us
Our ears to hear your loving call and our minds to discern your will
Open our hands to share you with others.
Make us true disciples and friends of your son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever.
Amen.

Lord God,
your Son left the riches of heaven
and became poor for our sake:
when we prosper save us from pride,
when we are needy save us from despair,
that we may trust in you alone;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
And the peace of God,
Which passes all understanding,
Keep your hearts and minds
In the knowledge and love of God,
And of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
And the + blessing of God almighty,
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
Be with you, and remain with you always
Amen

HYMN

1 Ye holy angels bright,
who wait at God's right hand,
or through the realms of light
fly at your Lord's command,
assist our song,
for else the theme
too high doth seem
for mortal tongue.

2 Ye blessed souls at rest,
who ran this earthly race,
and now, from sin released,
behold the Saviour's face,
his praises sound,
as in his sight
with sweet delight
ye do abound.

3 Ye saints, who toil below,
adore your heavenly King,
and onward as ye go
some joyful anthem sing;
take what he gives
and praise him still,
through good and ill,
who ever lives.

4 My soul, bear thou thy part,
triumph in God above,
and with a well-tuned heart
sing thou the songs of love;
let all thy days
till life shall end,
whate'er he send,
be filled with praise.