



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

26 July 2015

Sentence 'I am the living bread that came down from heaven.' says the Lord. 'Whoever eats of this bread will for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.' *Jn 2.17*

Collect

God of true abundance,
in whom nothing is lost and all are fed:
liberate us from meagre rations of scarce and grudging love
for which we must compete;
show us another kingdom which stills our all-consuming fear
and fills us with new hope;
through Jesus Christ, the peace of creation. **Amen.**

A Reading from the second book of Kings.

Elisha continues to demonstrate his credibility as a prophet, the successor of Elijah. Here a small amount of bread feeds many and not only satisfies their hunger but abundance is produced. In Israel, barley was a winter crop, harvested in spring, coinciding with Passover. Barley is a hardy grain, grown even in poor soil and was one of the seven crops and fruit trees for which Israel blessed God's provision. It could be eaten raw, made into porridge or beer, and as here, ground into flour for bread.

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to Elisha, the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, 'Give it to the people and let them eat.' But his servant said, 'How can I set this before a hundred people?' So he repeated, 'Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, "They shall eat and have some left."' He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD. *2 Kings 4.42-44*

Reader For the word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

Psalm 145.10-18 at 8am APBA page376

This psalm is praise of God as the divine ruler of creation who sustains the oppressed and starving when no others will, and notice vv. 17 & 18 which assures those who pray that God is kind and will draw near.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 145:1-2, 8-11, 13-14. R/cf. v.1



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| 1 I will give you glory, O <u>God</u> my King,
I will bless your <u>name</u> for ever.
I will bless you day <u>after</u> day
and praise your <u>name</u> for ever. | 3 All your creatures shall thank <u>you</u> , O Lord,
and your friends shall <u>repeat</u> their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory <u>of</u> your reign
and declare your might. O God. |
| 2 The Lord is kind and full <u>of</u> compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love. | 4 The Lord is faithful in <u>all</u> his words |

A Reading from the letter to the Ephesians

The letter to Ephesus continues with this prayer for the Church's maturity in spiritual strength, faith in Christ, love for one another and comprehension of Christ's fathomless love. Those who have faced their own failing humanity are those who know these truths. If we live superficially, our apprehension of God's love will also be shallow.

I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to

comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen. *Ephesians 9.70-21*

Reader May your word live in us.

ALL And bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!

Cantor Jesus took the loaves and when he had given thanks, he gave them to those who were seated.

ALL Alleluia!

Reader The Lord be with you

ALL And also with you

Reader A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

John's gospel is famously said to be like a pool where a toddler may paddle safely and an elephant may swim freely! It is a beautifully crafted, multi-layered telling of the story of Jesus. Background knowledge enriches our hearing; no detail is here by accident. Other miraculous feedings are evoked: Elisha feeding one hundred people with twenty barley loaves (today's reading from the Hebrews scriptures) and God feeding the people in the wilderness with manna bread from heaven (Exodus 16). Now Jesus feeds the crowd with bread in a remote place, close to Passover time. A new Passover is taking place and the rest of this chapter will focus on the deeper meaning of these events, which eluded the crowd but speak to our faith now. Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?' He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, 'Six

months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.' When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, got into a boat, and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid.' Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land towards which they were going. *John 6.1-21*

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord

ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Bible Readings next week

2 August 2015

Exodus 16.2-4, 9-15 Ps 78.22-28 Ephesians 4.1-6 John 6.24-35

Prayer for the Week

O God, the protector of all that trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy, that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we finally lose not the things eternal. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God: Russell Myers, Alys Prout-Webb, Frederick Theobald, Charlotte Schnelle, Dorothy (Doree) Gibbons, Viola Gaskell, Michael Robinson, Peter Frederick Moss, John Stevenson, Ian Lennox, James Boughton, *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Commemorations of the week:

July 30 William Willberforce (1759-1833). Social reformer, especially in working for the abolition of the slave trade.

July 31 Joseph of Arimathea. All that we know of him is in the Gospels; a Jewish councillor, a secret disciple of Jesus, who asked for the body of Jesus and provided the tomb for him. Many legends grew up around him, especially in relation to Glastonbury in England.

July 31 Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556) Founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). Born of a noble family in Spain, he was wounded in war and during his convalescence changed his life. With a small group of friends, which included St. Francis Xavier, he founded the Jesuit Order in 1534. His *Spiritual Exercises* remain a rich source for spiritual practice.

August 1 Holy men and women of the Old Testament.