



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

16 August 2015

Sentence Jesus said, 'Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.'
John 2.12

Collect

Divine love, undaunted by death and fear,
who went to the depths to bring back life:
in the power of the cross
shape a people of service,
breaking bread for a hungry world;
through Jesus Christ, the true food. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

The book of proverbs is a collection of sayings, commands and admonitions attributed to Solomon because of his legendary wisdom, though the book was not written by him. Here Wisdom is personified as a woman who invites the simple and unwise to her banquet so that they will gain wisdom.

Wisdom has built her house,

she has hewn her seven pillars.

She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,

she has also set her table.

She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls

from the highest places in the town,

'You that are simple, turn in here!'

To those without sense she says,

'Come, eat of my bread

and drink of the wine I have mixed.

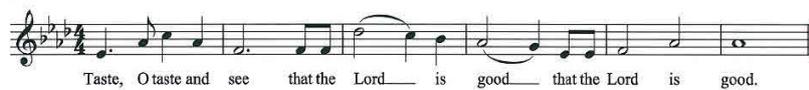
Lay aside immaturity, and live,

and walk in the way of insight.'

Prov. 9.1-6

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

Responsorial Psalm 34



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| 1 | Fear the Lord, <u>all</u> God's people,
For those who do so, will <u>lack</u> for nothing,
Those who <u>seek</u> the Lord
will lack for <u>nothing</u> good. | 2 | Come all you people, <u>listen</u> to me
Relish life, and keep your lips from <u>telling</u> lies,
Always turn from evil, <u>and</u> do good,
Always <u>seek</u> out peace. |
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A reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

We have been reading this letter for several weeks now, and today's portion contrasts wisdom and folly, dealt with also in the first reading. Paul's reasoning is that we behave in certain ways because God has behaved in a certain way towards us in the sacrificial love of Christ for the world. The lifelong growing in grace and understanding (conversion) we undergo as Christians is our response to God's infinite love.

Brothers and sisters, be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5.15-20

Reader May your word live in us.
ALL And bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!

Cantor The Lord says: 'Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood: abide in me and I in them.'

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.

We continue John's account of Jesus trying to explain that he is more than appears to be so. He is more than the bread that fed the ancestors in the wilderness. His true identity is as the one who has come down from heaven and become truly, humanly embodied for the life of the world. The Jews continue to struggle to understand but as ever Jesus keeps inviting people to 'come and see'.

Jesus said to the crowd: 'I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.' The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.'

John 6. 51-58

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord
ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

**Bible Readings next week 13 after Pentecost [21]
23 August 2015**

Joshua 24.1-2a, 14-18 Ps.34.15-22 Eph. 6.10-20 John 6.56-69

Prayer for the Week

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life: give us grace that we may always thankfully receive the benefits of his sacrifice, and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God: Clare Vanderkelen, Barbara Meredith Nettlefold, William Harris, John Palliser, Christabel Dickie, Wendell Gladwyn Nicholas, Isabel Joan Porter, Annie Dalton, Justine Tsiang, Mona Reid, Marjorie Tozer, Helen Pritchard *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Commemorations of the week

August 20 Bernard of Clairvaux, Cistercian abbot and teacher (c.1090-1153). Bernard was the founding abbot of Clairvaux Abbey in Burgundy, France. He was one of the most important Church leaders in the first half of the twelfth century as well as one of the greatest spiritual writers of all times. His best known works are his sermons on the Song of Songs and his book *On Loving God*. This begins with a moving

description of God's love for us as unmistakably demonstrated in the gift of his Son. Second, it is a call for us to joyfully respond to God like the child who runs to embrace her father of whose love she is certain.

August 24 Bartholomew, apostle and martyr. Nothing is known of him, except his listing as one of the Twelve Apostles. In legend, he is said to have evangelised India and Armenia and was martyred.

From *Being Christian* by Rowan Williams.

Holy Communion makes no sense at all if we do not believe in the resurrection. Without the resurrection, the Eucharist becomes simply a memorial meal, recalling a rather sad and overpowering occasion in the upper room. Allegedly, Queen Victoria did not like going to Holy Communion on Easter Day, because she said, she could not understand why you had to interrupt a joyful day with a sad service.... The starting point must be where the apostles themselves began, eating and drinking with Jesus after he was raised from the dead, experiencing once again his call into a new level of life together, a new fellowship and solidarity....as sharers in the Eucharist, we become involved in Jesus' own continuing work of bridging the gulfs between people, drawing them into shared life.

For more, come to the discussions in September.

See the notice on the next page.