

Worship at Home

The Eighth Sunday After Trinity

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips

All and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

- 1 Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord: ♦
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 2 Bless the Lord you heavens: ♦
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 3 Bless the Lord you angels of the Lord: ♦
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 4 Bless the Lord all people on earth: ♦
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 5 O people of God bless the Lord: ♦
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 6 Bless the Lord you priests of the Lord: ♦
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 7 Bless the Lord you servants of the Lord: ♦
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 8 Bless the Lord all you of upright spirit: ♦
bless the Lord you that are holy and humble in heart.

The Song of the Three 35-37, 60-65

All Bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: ♦
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

This opening prayer may be said

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Word of God

Psalm 17 verses 1-7

Psalm 17

Prayer for Deliverance from Persecutors

A Prayer of David.

- ¹ Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to my cry;
give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.
² From you let my vindication come;
let your eyes see the right.
³ If you try my heart, if you visit me by night,
if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me;
my mouth does not transgress.
⁴ As for what others do, by the word of your lips
I have avoided the ways of the violent.
⁵ My steps have held fast to your paths;
my feet have not slipped.
⁶ I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;
incline your ear to me, hear my words.
⁷ Wondrously show your steadfast love,
O saviour of those who seek refuge
from their adversaries at your right hand.

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Bible Reading : Romans 9 verses 1-5

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 people,^[a] my kindred according to the flesh. 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 Messiah,^[b] who is over all, God blessed forever.^[c] Amen.

Canticle

Splendour and majesty are yours, O God;

you are exalted as head over all.

- 1 Blessed are you, God of Israel, for ever and ever, ♦
for yours is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour and the majesty.
- 2 Everything in heaven and on earth is yours; ♦
yours is the kingdom, O Lord,
and you are exalted as head over all.
- 3 Riches and honour come from you ♦
and you rule over all.
- 4 In your hand are power and might; ♦
yours it is to give power and strength to all.
- 5 And now we give you thanks, our God, ♦
and praise your glorious name.
- 6 For all things come from you, ♦
and of your own have we given you.

1 Chronicles 29.10b-13,14b

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Splendour and majesty are yours, O God;
you are exalted as head over all.**

Bible Reading Matthew 14 verses 13-21

Feeding the Five Thousand

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the

loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Sermon –

Trinity 8 Year A 2020 – Feeding of the 5,000

When you have been married 23 years you don't really expect any surprises about your partner, but Sue really surprised me last month. She suddenly decided to start making bread loaves and rolls and they tasted fantastic. Apparently, she used to make bread with her mother as a teenager and I had no idea. The bread is so good that I think she could give a certain smart baker in Southwold a run for their money!

Today, we have a miracle story we all know and can recall that is about the importance of bread and sharing with others. It is of course the Feeding of the 5,000.

It's the only miracle included in all of the Gospels. Matthew and Mark like the story so much, in fact, that they each tell it twice, with slight variations: in one version Jesus feeds five thousand people, and in the other, four thousand. That means this story is told six times in the Gospels. And there are only four Gospels. Certainly, a story that appears six times in the Gospels needs to be taken seriously, as I believe it must be based on an extraordinary event.

Each version presents the same dilemma: crowds have followed Jesus out to a deserted place to hear him teach. When evening comes, it becomes clear that people haven't come prepared. There's not enough food — the disciples only have a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish — and the people are hungry. The disciples don't know what to do. In some versions, as in Matthew today, they suggest that Jesus should send the people away, to fend for themselves in the nearby villages. In some versions — again, as in Matthew today — Jesus turns to the disciples and tells them: ***“You give them something to eat.”***

“You give them something to eat” is the heart of this miracle. Jesus is saying those words to us today, just as clearly as he said them to his disciples on the deserted shores of the far side of the Sea of Galilee all those centuries ago.

There is a hungry world out there, and it is our responsibility, our duty, to feed them. This hunger is both spiritual and physical. And although it may look like there's not enough bread to go around, the miracle we recounted today teaches us that, in fact, if we open our eyes,

we will see that there is enough - that God has already provided enough bread to feed every last person on earth. It just depends on how you divide it up.

Irish American New Testament scholar, John Dominic Crossan argues in his book 'The Power of Parable' that the miracle stories in the Gospels are really parables in disguise. Miracles are parables told about Jesus and should be understood in a similar way to – and taken as seriously as – the parables of Jesus. The miracle we heard today may seem simple on the surface: Jesus is able to magically multiply bread and fish. But push a little deeper, and it's really a parable about how we see the world. Is there enough to go around, or not? What does it mean to share this world God has given us? What kind of people are we going to be — those who share or those who hoard?

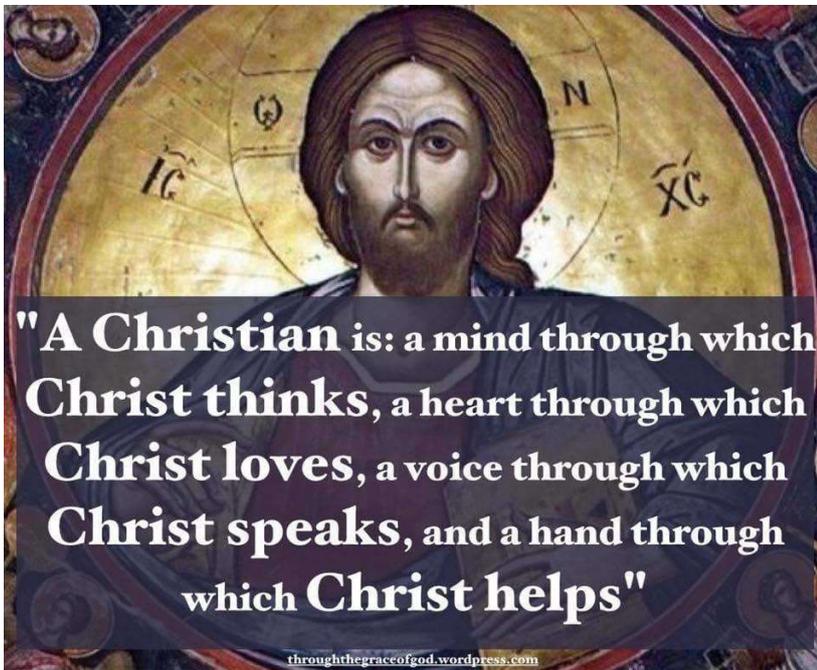
Both Matthew and Mark drive home this point by providing a prelude to the miracle story. In both Gospels, the feeding of the five thousand is directly preceded by the story of Herod beheading John the Baptist. The connection between these two stories might not be immediately clear, but here is how Mark and Matthew tell it: John has been in prison for some time for accusing Herod of adultery with Herodias, his brother's wife. Herod throws a feast for his birthday, inviting his rich and powerful friends. Herodias' daughter dances before Herod at the feast, which pleases him, and he tells her she can have whatever she wants in return. She asks for John the Baptist's head on a platter — and Herod obliges her.

Herod's feast is exclusive, a private gala dinner for the rich and the powerful, and leads to death. Jesus' feast is inclusive, a community picnic for the poor and the oppressed, and leads to life. Which party would you like to attend?

As often as we take the Eucharist, we re-enact Jesus' picnic on the lakeshore. Just like on that day, Jesus *takes* our bread, *blesses* it, *breaks* it, and *shares* it with all who are hungry. And he is calling us to do the same with our lives – take the blessings God has given, break them open, and share them with others. Jesus is calling us today: Come to the party where no one goes hungry, where there is bread and joy and life for all.

“You give them something to eat.”

Amen.



Reverend Alan Perry

A time of silence.

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead.

All And Christ shall give you light.

You have died and your life is hid with Christ in God.

All Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead.

Set your minds on things that are above,
not on things that are on the earth.

All And Christ shall give you light.

When Christ our life appears
you will appear with him in glory.

**All Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,
and Christ shall give you light.**

from Colossians 3

Gospel Canticle

**You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of your servant David.**

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ♦
who has come to his people and set them free. ♦
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ♦

born of the house of his servant David.

- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old ♦
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ♦
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear, ♦
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God ♦
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, ♦
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68–79

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**All
You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of your servant David.**

Prayers

That this day may be holy, good and joyful:

All we pray to you, O Lord.

That we may offer to you our worship and our work:

All we pray to you, O Lord.

That we may strive for the well-being of all creation:

All we pray to you, O Lord.

That in the pleasures and pains of life,
we may know the love of Christ and be thankful:

All we pray to you, O Lord.

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit,
in communion with [N and with] all your saints,
entrusting one another and all our life to Christ:

All we pray to you, O Lord.

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.

Silence may be kept.

The Collect of the day

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern
both our hearts and bodies
in the ways of your laws
and the works of your commandments;
that through your most mighty protection,
both here and ever,
we may be preserved in body and soul
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Conclusion

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
and keep us in eternal life.

All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

CONTACTS www.solebayteamministry.co.uk

Team Rector Revd Simon Pitcher

☎ 725424 📧 revsimon63@gmail.com (*Day off- Monday*)

Team Vicar Revd Alan Perry

☎ 453624 📧 adperry64@gmail.com (*Day off- Monday*)

Twitter feed : @Perry1Alan

Please follow us on St. Margaret's Facebook page

Team Administrator Tania Birtwistle ☎ 724115 📧 assistvicar@aol.com