

Welcome from Revd Jan Moore

An Opening sentence from the Book of Common Prayer

To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against him: neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in his laws which he set before us

Dearly beloved, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are gathered, to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

Confession

Almighty and most merciful Father, We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, We have offended against thy holy laws, We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, And we have done those things which we ought not to have done, And there is no health in us: But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders; Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults, Restore thou them that are penitent, According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord: And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. **Amen.**

Absolution

May the Father of all mercies Cleanse us from our sins And restore us in His image, to the praise and glory of His name, through Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen.**

Responses

Priest.	O Lord, open thou our lips.	
Answer	And our mouth shall shew forth	thy praise
Priest	O God, make speed to save us.	
Answer.	O Lord, make haste to help us	

Priest: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
Answer. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Priest. Praise ye the Lord.
Answer. The Lord's Name be praised.

Venite, Exultemus Domino (Psalm 95)

O come, let us sing unto the Lord :
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving :
and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God :
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are all the corners of the earth :
and the strength of the hills is his also.
The sea is his, and he made it :
and his hands prepared the dry land.
O come, let us worship and fall down :
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is the Lord our God :
and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

First reading (Old Testament) - I Kings 10: 1-7,9

When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the Lord, she came to test Solomon with hard questions. ² Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan—with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones—she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. ³ Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. ⁴ When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, ⁵ the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at^[a] the temple of the Lord, she was overwhelmed.

⁶ She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. ⁷ But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. ⁹ Praise be to the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the Lord's eternal love for Israel, he has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness."

Psalm of the day (Psalm 85)

- 1 You, Lord, showed favour to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- 2 **You forgave the iniquity of your people
and covered all their sins.**^[b]
- 3 You set aside all your wrath
and turned from your fierce anger.
- 4 **Restore us again, God our Saviour,
and put away your displeasure toward us.**
- 5 Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger through all generations?
- 6 **Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?**
- 7 Show us your unfailing love, Lord,
and grant us your salvation.
- 8 **I will listen to what God the Lord says;
he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—
but let them not turn to folly.**
- 9 Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 **Love and faithfulness meet together;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.**

Second reading (New Testament) - John 6: 24-38

Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

²⁶ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

²⁸ Then they asked him, "What must we do, to do the works God requires?"

²⁹ Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

³⁰ So they asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' "

³² Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

³⁴ "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread."

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Jubilate Deo - Psalm 100

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands : serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song.

Be ye sure that the Lord he is God : it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise : be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.

For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting : and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. **Amen.**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. **Amen.**

Minister. The Lord be with you.
Answer. **And with thy spirit.**
Minister. Let us pray. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Answer. **Christ, have mercy upon us**

Minister Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. **Amen.**

Responses

Minister. O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Answer. And grant us thy salvation.

Minister. O Lord, save the Queen.

Answer. And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Minister. Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

Answer. And make thy chosen people joyful.

Minister. O Lord, save thy people.

Answer. And bless thine inheritance.

Minister. Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Answer. Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

Minister. O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Answer. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Collect for the 8th Sunday after Trinity

O God, whose never-failing providence ordereth all things both in heaven and earth: We humbly beseech thee to put away from us all hurtful things, and to give us those things which be profitable for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect, for Peace

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom: Defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect, for Grace

O Lord, our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day: Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Reflection - for the 4th Sunday after Trinity

Intercessions

*Response to "You are the Bread of Life" is
"Hear our prayer and our need to be fed"*

The Blessing

The love of the Lord Jesus
Draw you to Himself,
The power of the Lord Jesus
Strengthen you in His service,

And the blessing of God Almighty,
The Father the Son and the Holy Spirit,
Be among us and remain with us always,
Amen.

Supplementary Texts

Sermon for 8th after Trinity 2 August 2020

Stratton MP and BCP Audio Matins

Readings 1 Kings 10: 1-7,9 & John 6 24-38

Handel's Arrival of The Queen of Sheba is a very popular Bride's Arrival Wedding Music. Interestingly is it very ordered, mathematical in its musical structure, yet full of musicality, colour and orchestration. It's grand and regal.

Today's OT narrative of the Arrival of The Queen of Sheba at Solomon's palace indicates her wealth, status, impact, power and intellect. Solomon is her equal in intellect, but more, she notes his wisdom as well as his wealth and grandeur. She also notices in his palace a sense of order and an attitude that indicates he acknowledges something greater than himself. The Queen of Sheba witnesses, not just a self-indulgent splendour, but a management and leadership full of respect and honour. She had heard about Solomon but needed to see him for herself. And yet she does not, in this text, applaud him, but rather she applauds his creator God, the one whom he praises, thanks, respects and obeys in his own calling to lead Israel with justice and righteousness.

In our NT reading, after Jesus had fed the 5,000 from 5 loaves and 2 fishes, we hear that his audience were caught. This man Jesus, they discerned, was indeed inspiring, but is it reminiscent of The Queen of Sheba's discernment of Solomon.

Jesus was worth seeing certainly. What would he do next? But Jesus audience were like children, like those locally who have been absorbed by Tweedy the Clown of Gifford Circus, during Lockdown, streamed into many homes by the Cirencester's Barn Theatre. Tweedie is now appearing in person at the Outdoor Barn Theatre behind Theatro, which has been set up with excellent social distancing and safety rules in place. I

heard stories of excited, adoring children with their families there on Sunday afternoon. They will have laughed and clapped and been spell-bound.

But in our bible story for today, Jesus challenges this attitude from his own audience. Jesus is not just another entertainer, which is not in any way to detract from Tweedie's skill. I suspect that Tweedy also teaches kids and parents truths that are worth remembering and living by. And isn't he following his calling by using his gifts and developed skills in a productive and wholesome way?

Nevertheless Jesus, having engaged his own crowds wants them to take away, and live out his message. Following him is not to be a passing fad. He is not another stage struck 5 minute wonder passing though. Following him will demand an ongoing piece of work, a life commitment, yet they will be invigorated and sustained by his commitment to BEING their bread. Their sustenance. And yet, what does even Jesus say? That it is neither Moses nor himself who gives this bread, but rather God.

Jesus finishes this dialogue with his crowd by definitely naming himself AS the Bread of Life from God, but HIMSELF given to them by God. So we have a definitive moment in Jesus' ministry when he announces his role, his sonship, the cost for him: To Be the Bread, broken as we now know: to be the reconnection for all his followers, then and now, to God, through his own dramatic and costly life performance. Not just to pass through but to remain in the hearts, minds and guts of all who do not let him just lodge in the history books, but who sustain his entry into the annals of eternity through each and every soul who connects with him life-long, and through all periods of history and across all the world.

The Queen of Sheba, Solomon, Tweedy the Clown, you and me, can all be connected in God, through Jesus.

Seeing and hearing is believing for all of us. God identifies and seeks, through his creation, pursuance of justice, righteousness and wisdom. But I wonder whether we always look for it and see it and name it. We all need signs; we all need to see unexpected good things happening in a dark and sadly fallen world. But do we allow the blessings of our days to hold our attention at the end of each one, or do we stress on the negative and the ungodly, which is all around and all across the world.

In whom do we see and to whom do we listen in our own lives? whom we believe to be agents of God? And how do we know? By seeing Jesus' way in them? By knowing it is he who nourishes their souls, and thereby their actions, whilst understanding that it is his life story which has informed them of God.

This paragraph not included in on line audio because of file size constraints....

We are surely all souls damaged by a harsh and complex world, who need a saving grace as we travel our earthly journey. I was reminded of this when watching the film Australia last week, along with my husband, son, daughter in law and three teenage grandchildren. I think it's a good watch, although they might say I'm addicted to Hugh Jackman! For others maybe it's Nicole Kidman! But I still think it's a good watch, not just for its scenery, aboriginal life in the bush, and a bit of WW2 history but because The Drover, Hugh Jackman, whose personal driver appears to be herding cattle with all the macho skill he can muster, finally realises that this driven-ness in him has actually been a distraction from letting himself become vulnerable to pain. And that he can only be redeemed by the giving and receiving of love, which will mean embracing the pain. Yet he knows that living out love instead of escaping from it, will inevitably make him susceptible to feeling again, which comes with joy and pain.

God is Love and those who live in love, live in God: Marriage service words which sometimes immediately follow the Arrival of The Queen of Sheba. Love costs. Jesus knows it. Yet in nourishing us he draws us, with him, ever closer to creating not a hell, but a heaven on earth and into eternity.

Intercessions for Trinity 8 BCP Matins Audio

Everlasting God, may the worship of your church throughout the world be attentive and expectant, ready to be re-inspired with the outrageous foolishness of loving, without exception and without limits. May we learn from your son and all who are called to follow him, the discernment of wisdom and goodness.

You are the bread of life. **Hear our prayer and our need to be fed**

Creator God. We pray for your troubled world. Especially for our current fears and the darkness of the Pandemic Threat. May all that encourages people's goodness, honesty and compassion be blessed to grow and all that encourages self-seeking, cruelty, prejudice and deceit to wither. May we learn to see blessings in another's culture and respect another's differences. Support our leaders to discern wisdom and make decisions for the well being of all in their care.

You are the bread of life. **Hear our prayer and our need to be fed**

Father God, we thank you for the joy of human love, and for all those with whom we live and work and take our leisure. We pray particularly for loved ones who worry us with their health, or circumstances, or life direction. We pray for children and young people in these days of feeling they are being robbed of the fullness of important years.

You are the bread of life. **Hear our prayer and our need to be fed**

Loving God we pray for all whose backgrounds make belief in a loving God seem laughable or terrifying. Those who suffer mental or emotional anguish and despair. Those facing another day of pain, another day of hunger, another day of fear, making Faith in you so much harder.

You are the bread of life. **Hear our prayer and our need to be fed.**

Merciful God, gather into your eternal kingdom all who have come to the end of this earthly life in faith as we remember all whom we love but can no longer see, and thank you for your overarching love and undergirding faithfulness to us.

You are the bread of life. **Hear our prayer and our need to be fed**

Gracious God, we thank you for this time together in prayer and as we look forward to the week to come, we pray for an awareness of your love and support in all we do.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.