

The Bride Valley Service for Sunday 2nd August 2020 Trinity 8

*At the beginning of our services in church today we will light a candle,
you may wish to light a candle at home too.*

**"I will call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words." Psalm 17
v 6**

They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship and the promises: to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the messiah, who is over all, God blessed for ever. **Amen.** *Romans 9 v 4 and 5*

Kyrie Confession

We confess to you our lack of care for the world you have given us.

Lord have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our selfishness in not sharing the earth's bounty fairly.

Christ have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you our failure to protect resources for others.

Lord have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring you his pardon and peace, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Collect

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

1st Reading: Genesis 32 verses 22 – 31

Jacob Wrestles at Peniel

²²The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

Gospel 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.

Reflection

Faith is often incomplete, fearing that God will only help us in certain ways or to a limited extent, on the contrary, he meets all the needs of those who turn to him abundantly, without limit.

In a conversation about the feeding of the five thousand earlier this week the remark was made: "It's all about the foodbank, isn't it, that has to be the modern version of the feeding of the five thousand." And in a sense it is, of course. BUT, it is so much more than that ... Ironically in the same conversation about the foodbank, Helen, the new curate in the Bridport team told how she'd spent the morning counting 200 tins of beans at the Foodbank, to which the response was; "Be thankful you weren't asked to open each tin and count the beans inside also!"

And that's the point, to make us think: there is so much more to God's provision and we often limit it.

It must have been a miserable crowd of people by the time evening began to fall and it grew cold in that desert place. The excitement of following this new healer and teacher had kept them buoyed up through the day, but now hunger and tiredness set in and overcame their enthusiasm. Some of them muttered about these religious folk who care nothing about the needs of ordinary people. Their enthusiasm was turning to hostility. As for the disciples, they were sick of people crowding round their Master and wanted only to be alone with him. "Send them away" was a cry that he heard from them all too often. The idea of sharing their meagre supplies among such a crowd was the last straw. But the voice of authority overcame their complaints, and they all sat down as he commanded them. He had taught and healed many and now fed them until they could eat no more. Tentative hope grew into total satisfaction. Replete and content, they did not even know that they had seen a sign of the Messiah. The miracle of the manna in the wilderness was even more bountifully repeated. In a different way to Jacob, he had seen also God face to face.

*Guide me O thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land
I am weak but thou art might,
Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more. (William Williams)*

Let us pray: Bountiful God, teach me to trust you for everything. When my hope is weak and my faith grows dim, help me remember how often you have overcome my fears and met my needs more abundantly than I could have imagined. **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

God feeds all who come to him hungry and we as the Church are expected to share in that work.

Lord, awaken in us our need of you and make us hungry and thirsty for you,
Both as individuals and as the Church of God.
Let no other issues side-track us from seeking you,
And increase our love and compassion so that we long to serve you in the world around us.
Bread of Heaven: **on you we feed.**

Lord, allow our world to see the true value of things, so that worthless and dangerous is unmasked
And real needs acknowledged.
Guide our leaders in wisdom and integrity, and enable us all to co-operate in proper care and
stewardship of the world's resources.
Bread of Heaven: **on you we feed.**

Lord, as we eat our food this week, remind us of your spiritual feeding.
May the meals we prepare and eat together be opportunities for drawing closer to one another and to
you.
Bread of Heaven: **on you we feed.**

Lord, we pray for all who need medical treatment or are waiting in pain for surgery.
We pray for those who have become addicted and long to be set free.
We pray for all whose wrong choices have ended in heartache, disillusionment and despair.
Bread of Heaven: **on you we feed.**

Lord, we pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones.
Have mercy on those approaching death who have no knowledge of you,
May they respond to the true and living God and know your love forever.
Bread of Heaven: **on you we feed.**

Lord, we thank you for nourishing us with spiritual food that speaks to our hearts.

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

Let us now pray the Lord's Prayer together

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power
and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**

Final Prayer

The Lord God Almighty is our Father: **he loves and tenderly cares for us.**
The Lord Jesus Christ is our Saviour: **he has redeemed us and will defend us to the end.**
The Lord, the Holy Spirit is among us: **He will lead us in God's way.**
To God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be praise and glory today and forever. Amen.

Sources: New Patterns of Worship, Susan Sayers, Common Worship.