

## Morning Service of the Word

### 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

#### Welcome and Opening Prayer

#### SONG

#### Introduction

O Lord, open our lips:

**and our mouth shall sing your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

**as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Praise the Lord:

**The Lord's name be praised.**

#### Confession

A moment of silence:

Christ our Passover Lamb has been offered for us. So, let us rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

**God our Father, we are sorry for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly and acted ungratefully.**

**We are sorry when we enjoy the fruits of the harvest but forget that you have given them to us.**

**We are sorry that, while we belong to a people who are full and satisfied, we ignore the cry of the hungry.**

**We are sorry that we are thoughtless and do not care enough for the world you have made.**

**We are sorry that we store up goods for ourselves alone as if there were no God in heaven.**

**Father, in your mercy, forgive us and help us. Amen.**

#### Absolution

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins and restore us in his service to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### SONG

## Bible Reading

### **Ephesians 4:1-16 - New International Version**

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. <sup>8</sup> This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”

<sup>9</sup> (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) <sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup> Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **SONG**

### Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to..... **Glory to you O Lord.**

### John 6: 24-35

<sup>24</sup> 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.

<sup>25</sup> When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

<sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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.”

<sup>28</sup> Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

<sup>30</sup> So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? <sup>31</sup> Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’<sup>[a]</sup>”

<sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

<sup>34</sup> “Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

<sup>35</sup> 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

### Trinity 9 (2021)

Do you ever look for something and it is not there? The other day I was working in my office, and it came time to come down onto the estate and go into school. The only problem I couldn't find my glasses. I searched everywhere around my computer, I search in the kitchen, the living room, the bathroom, and bedrooms. I checked in the fridge and around the rabbit cage. But everywhere I looked I could not find them. In the same way our gospel account tells that Jesus could not be found, so the people went looking for him and they found him just like I found my glasses after half an hour of looking - they were on the top of my head.

The people that came looking for Jesus did so for many reasons and if you look back in the account of Johns gospel you will see that Jesus had already turned water into wine, he had driven the money changers and the traders out of the temple, he had healed the government official's son, and the blind, and the lame and the paralysed. He had taught the people and fed 5000 with 5 loaves and 2 fish and done probably much much more that isn't recorded.

But when the people find Jesus, we find that Jesus ignores their questions and their superficial interests. The needs of the crowd is focused at stomach level rather than a spiritual level. At the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus satisfied their physical hunger, and now they are looking for more of the same.

We all know that the meeting of physical needs - food, clothing, shelter, money never loses its appeal. We all want a comfortable life. However, the gifts that Jesus offers do not always have the same appeal to us, they don't stir the same excitement as a new car or new clothes, or a promotion or a cash windfall.

Jesus explains that we should be looking at Gods world in a different way. Our first reading from Ephesians gives us a glimpse at this way of life, one filled with humility, gentleness,

patience and bearing with one another in love. So that we might play our part in bringing God's peace to all.

In our gospel reading from John we see Jesus changing the focus of what the people think that God is about and what God's Kingdom should look like. Jesus challenges the crowd to raise their eyes to see beyond the physical realm. "Don't work for the food which perishes, but for the food which remains to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you" Jesus is refocusing the people to look to a new way of living, beyond what was promised to Moses. Hopefully we all remember John 3:16 where Jesus first teaches about building our lives on things that do not perish so that we might have "eternal life. Here we see Jesus speaking about God loving the world and giving the Son so "that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Jesus is not saying that physical needs are unimportant... elsewhere he speaks of food, drink, and clothing, assuring us that "your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things," and promising us that, if they will seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness then "all these things will be given to you as well". We also we see that much of Jesus' earthly ministry is focused on healing people's physical ills.

But now he calls the crowd to acknowledge their need for "food that endures for eternal life"—promising that the Son of Man will give them that food.

Here he tells them that He is the bread of Life. This is the first of a series of "I AM" sayings in this Gospel that take us all the way back to the story of burning bush. When Moses asked God his name, God replied, "You shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you'" . "I am," could be simple self identification, but when you look at it in the context of the conversation Jesus is having you can see it means more than this. It's the start of Jesus letting the people know who He is. The "I AM" sayings tells us that there is something/one different here. Jesus tells them that.. I AM - he", I AM the bread. I AM the living bread" . I AM the light of the world". I AM the sheep's door" . I AM the door". I AM the good shepherd" . I AM the resurrection and the life" . I AM the way, the truth, and the life". I AM the true vine".

These "I am" sayings show us the many facets of the Jesus and what he spoke about and how he wanted us to follow and serve.

By Jesus saying He is the bread of life he is making some key points that everyone at this time would know about: Firstly, that it was God, not Moses, who gave the manna. And that this is a gift that God gives to us now. - It isn't that the Father "gave" (past), but that the Father "gives" (present). Jesus is the gift—the bread of life.

The bread of God is a gift that comes from him. This is in keeping with the start of the gospel of John where we are told - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... The Word became flesh and lived among us. We saw his glory, such glory as of the one and only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth" Jesus was at the start of all things and in him we can live as God intended.

In the same way that the manna enabled Moses and the Israelites to survive in the desert, so the bread of God gives life. The manna sustained physical life, but the true bread of God gives eternal life.

This is something for everyone, the availability of the life-giving “bread out of heaven” is vast and is for the whole world. Manna gave life to the Israelites, but only temporarily—the wilderness Israelites died centuries earlier. The true bread of life gives eternal life—and it is given to the whole world.

Jesus is promising us something that will fill us up and satisfy our needs, Jesus challenges us not just to work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. This is a tough call nowadays, as it was in Jesus’ time: not just to work for what perishes but for what endures. When we watch the news or look into our communities, we can all see that we live in a time that is competitive and materialist and is moving in the opposite direction that God wants for us, it pushes us to fulfil our passing needs and desires and forget all about what lasts. Actually, this is the same world that Jesus found perhaps with a few other issues to overcome.

If this time of pandemic has taught us one thing, I pray that it is that we need to ask God for wisdom, and that this wisdom might help us know how to choose between what lasts and what passes, and wisdom to act with courage to live our lives as God first intended. To live in a world that God saw to be good and play our part in making it good.

Jesus told them that He is the bread of life and all who come to Him will never go hungry or thirsty and will never face rejection.

### **The Creed**

**We believe in God the Father, by whose plan earth and heaven sprang into being and all created things began.**

**We believe in Christ the Saviour, Son of God in human frame, virgin-born, the child of Mary, upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken, like a lamb to slaughter led; suffered under Pontius Pilate, and descended to the dead.**

**We believe in Jesus risen, heaven’s King to rule and reign, to the Father’s side ascended till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit; in one church, below and above: saints of God in one communion, one in holiness and love.**

**So, by faith, our sins forgiven, Christ our Saviour, Lord and Friend, we shall rise with him in glory to a life that knows no end.**

### **Peace**

### **Intercessions**

**Intercessions for Trinity 9 (2021)**

**Dear Lord God**, we are here together to worship you and to learn about your good ways, through your Holy Spirit, teach us through your words and show us where we need to change, and how we need to act differently. Give us all we need to serve you in your world, so that you are known to the people we know.

**Lord Jesus**, we come to You, knowing that You are the bread of life and that only You can truly satisfy our needs. Please forgive us for trying to satisfy our lives with wrong things and when we are distracted by worldly things. As your church in this place help us to be witnesses to your peace, joy and love.

**Lord God of love** and peace, help us to bring an end to all division. Take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us. Remind us that you are calling all people to you regardless of ethnicity or gender or social background and keep us all reunited in your truth and peace, faith and charity.

This week we pray for Sharon and her team at the Action Centre as they start the holiday feeding programme. May they know your peace and joy as they serve our community with food and activities. We also pray for the WEC Summer camp that will be running online again this year. May everything that is planned work out and may any technical gremlins be kept away so that the young people may learn more about you.

**Lord God** bring your healing and rest on all those that need it at this time. If they are tired, may they find rest, if they are anxious, may they find your peace, if they are lonely may they find friends and if they are sick or ill may they find your comfort. We pray especially for Roy and Dot and in a time of silence lift all we know to you for healing. Father God we lift to you all those who are suffering knowing that nothing can separate us from your love.

**Father God** you have poured the Spirit of your Son into our hearts so that we call you Father. Give us grace to devote our freedom to your service this week and truly know that we may be known as your children.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **SONG**

### **Blessing and Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**