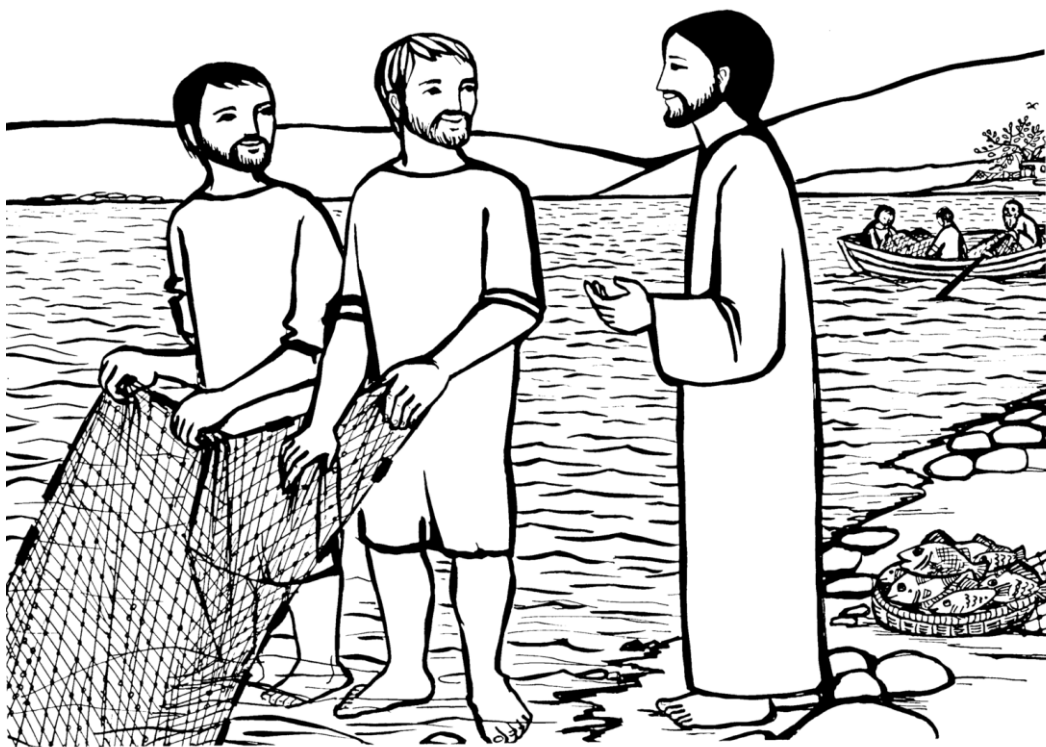


**United Benefice of Berrow with Pendock
Eldersfield, Hollybush and Birtsmorton**



**Holy Communion
for the Sundays after Trinity**

THE WELCOME

Do have a candle, glass of juice/wine and cracker/piece of bread ready

THE FIRST HYMN

The Lord be with you
and also with you

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins, in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

(There will be a time of silence for reflection before we say the Confession together.)

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry, and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
Forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive you your sins,
open your eyes to God's truth,
strengthen you to do God's will
and give you the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

**Glory to God in the highest;
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the most high,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE COLLECT

**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. and may the bodies which have been
fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life;
glory to you for ever.
Amen.**

THE READINGS: 2 Kings 4:42 to end, Ephesians 3:14 to end

**This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to Go.**

THE GOSPEL READING: John 6:1-21

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

At the end of the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

What view of God's character have you in mind?

In the 50's, as a child, at school, he was all seeing, knew all my faults but seemed without mercy, full of punishments, not love, very distant, passive and not connected with reality at all.

We're living through an era of massive transition and change, rather like the surface of the earth of shifting plates. In the last few years, we've had a roller-coaster economics, banking and increasing unemployment. Around the world, wars, conflicts, disasters, climate change, and issues of diversity.

Technological changes: Facebook, blogs, text messages, phones, tweets, Twitter, Zoom. We're constantly connected and "on the grid," But somehow this greater volume and velocity of information don't always lead to deeper wisdom and richer relationships. Some of the changes bewilder and frustrate us; others amaze and delight us. Whether we consider them "positive" or "negative," the shifts keep happening and the ground beneath our feet doesn't feel solid. All the while, we're also trying to cope with more immediate and personal changes: illness, family crises, challenges at work and school, the limitations imposed by aging, and inevitable transitions brought on by the simple passing of time. Things feels temporary or impermanent. Our vulnerability to change may sometimes overwhelms us; and when it does, how can God help us?

Most days most of us just get out of bed, put on our uniforms of responsibility, our practiced façades of can-do optimism, our masks of habit, and our armour of protection, and do what we have to do. There's a kind of grace in our being able to do so; but I know from listening to folk, that there are a lot of people who worry and wonder about how much longer they can cope with all the demands, respond to all the pressures, and meet all the expectations they feel bearing down on them.

Paul's prayer for the Ephesian Christians reminds us, we have real God, revealed to us in the history of Israel and in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is magnificent, mysterious, and mighty.

A God who is beyond our comprehension or imagination. God encompasses everything: past, present and future; near and far; what we have discovered and what remains hidden. God is above and beyond, among and within, high and but also holy, close and compassionate.

Paul prayer compellingly invites us to realize how much God loves us--to experience God's surrounding, encompassing, and holding us with love. And it promises us that

God will fill us when we are empty, make us strong when we are weak, and keep us rooted and grounded when everything is changing.

Read the passage again at home. May be ask God to give you again that sense of wonder and majesty and help to comprehend His wide embrace of divine love. Receive God's strength, so that you may live faithfully and joyfully in these challenging times of change. Be prepared to open yourself to a vast, loving, and powerful God who is "at work within us" and "is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.

In today's Gospel reading, John has recorded two of Jesus' great miracles, back-to-back. We first hear of the story of a hillside full of people, who have come to Jesus on a hillside, hungry for many things. And Jesus, and his disciples, in good hospitality, first and foremost, try to formulate a plan on how to feed the masses. The disciples, particularly Philip, are clear there is absolutely, positively, no conceivable way that all those people will be fed.

What links these two stories together is that Jesus does something totally unexpected, and it changes the lives of those around him forever. Philip, nor Andrew, nor the little boy, or anyone else standing there, ever dreamed what was going to happen when Jesus got a hold of that bread and those fish.

Jesus is constantly doing things that no one expects, but the result, time and again, are stories told about a Messiah who shows up in unexpected places, in unexpected ways.

Jesus himself sets the challenge in the wilderness, "man does not live by bread alone." Rather, he says, we live by God's word for our lives, his message of love and forgiveness which changes us from mere animals to those who care for their fellow human beings. In a profound spiritual sense, Jesus wants his followers to understand that their communion with him, their participation in his very life, will lead to new levels of maturity and understanding.

It was a communal happening and Jesus was good at, bringing people from their lonely lives to discover the joy and fulfilment which come from knowing that you belong to someone and to each other.

At the heart of it, this to me is the power of the Christian experience, to know that alone as we sometimes find ourselves, even in the midst of extended families and communities, we do belong to each other. We celebrate this belonging in the Eucharist when we eat and drink together and know that not only is Jesus present with us as we do so, but we are present with and for one another. Through his body we become one body, forgiven and forgiving, the broken made whole. We are the body of Christ.

Jesus wants you to see beyond the details...to claim his loving lifestyle as your own and for others we live in community with too... to embrace his promise for a life that lasts, by feeding for their spiritual hungers within.

Jesus can work miracles with five loaves and two fish. At the heart of the story, that the little boy brought his meagre gifts to Jesus, his five loaves and two fish, and look what

mighty miracles God did with them. Our invitation is there: to surrender what we can to further God's Kingdom with those who do not yet know about our Christian faith. We too can bring our gifts to God, our five loaves and two fish, our ordinary talents and gifts, we bring the simplicity of who we are to God, and look what mighty miracles God can do with our lives and the lives of others we meet.

Amen

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

At the end of the prayers:

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

THE PEACE

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

and also with you.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now reunited on this table in the bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole church soon be gathered together from the corners of
the earth into your kingdom. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Let us pray

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;

grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us
the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of [N and] all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

**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 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.**

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast

(consume)

THE PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your word
be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your praise
be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the tokens of
your love shine with the light of hope; Amen.

We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this physical and spiritual sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples. Amen.

THE FINAL HYMN

THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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