

# Morning Prayer

at home with your  
Parish Church

in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS  
KINGS HEATH

## Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2023

### Preparation

*You may wish to mark your time of worship by arranging a table with a cloth, a candle and your Bible, or anything, such as flowers, that makes it a special reflective space.*

*Music: click on the links to hear and join in the music. Click stop at the end of each.*

#### **HYMN** [Praise and thanksgiving](#)

1. Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer  
for all things living you have made good;  
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,  
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.
2. Lord, bless the labour we bring to serve you,  
that with our neighbour we may be fed.  
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you;  
harvesting, milling, for daily bread.
3. Father, providing food for your children,  
your wisdom guiding teaches us share  
one with another, so that, rejoicing,  
sister and brother may know your care.
4. Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people;  
each one confessing your gracious hand:  
where you are reigning no one will hunger;  
your love sustaining fruitful the land.

*(Albert F Bailey alt)*

*At home, we pause to remember those gathered in Church who, in turn remember us.*

*We take this time, united in Christ, to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may find new ways to serve God.*

# Prayers of Penitence

*We confess:*

Almighty God, long-suffering and of great goodness: I confess to you, I confess with my whole heart my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments, my wrong doing, thinking and speaking: the hurts I have done to others, and good I have left undone. O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you; and raise me to newness of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*We keep silence, then pray:*

May almighty God who forgives all who truly repent have mercy upon us, pardon us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Word of God

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 55:1-5

Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.  
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.  
Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.  
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.  
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

PSALM 145:15-end *If you are able, you might stand to read this psalm aloud.*

The eyes of all look to you,  
and you give them their food in due season.  
You open your hand,  
satisfying the desire of every living thing.  
The LORD is just in all his ways,  
and kind in all his doings.  
The LORD is near to all who call on him,  
to all who call on him in truth.  
He fulfils the desire of all who fear him;  
he also hears their cry, and saves them.  
The LORD watches over all who love him,  
but all the wicked he will destroy.

My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,  
and all flesh will bless his holy name for ever and ever.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 14:13-21

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. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. 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.' Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' 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. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*We stand and turn to look in the direction of Church, to emphasise our gathering around a precious, shared story:*

**We declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ:**

**Christ died for our sins  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he was buried;  
he was raised to life on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers,  
and to all the apostles,  
this we have received and this we believe. Amen.** (cf 1 Corinthians 15:3-7)

## Prayers

*We pray* THE COLLECT for the ninth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

We pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**All: Our Father in heaven...**

## FOR REFLECTION

Perhaps our two readings seem tactless in the midst of a cost of living crisis. In fact they are offer precisely the challenge humanity needs right now.

The big miracle in beside the lake is surely that such a crowd has come out with such fascination to listen to Jesus without thinking about meals and time and distance from home. They show profound hunger for whatever Jesus was saying. They invite us to ask what we really hunger for, and what kinds of appetite we think need satisfying in our life.

His provision of plenty when there seemed to be so little challenges us to behold the earth's abundance and why so many human beings experience hunger at all. There is more than enough for everyone. Distribution is the issue. Perhaps if we and the nations we identify with attended to our Spiritual hunger, distribution of God's abundance would soon follow.

*We turn our reflection into* PRAYERS:

*We pray for the healing of those conflicts that cause hunger, unnecessary price rises, and pressure to spend government money on weaponry instead of welfare. We pray for places where there is pressure to grow crops for drugs rather than food, and where there is economic temptation to destroy natural habitats for the sake of food production that could take place elsewhere:*

Places experiencing invasion,  
    Poor governance,  
        Civil war,  
            Destructive consequences of climate change.

We pray for Isaiah's vision of healed international relations to be fulfilled.

Picturing the crowds eating their surprise picnic, we pray for any who eat alone and hunger for company.

We pray for users of our local foodbanks and recipients of food from the All Saints Vicar's Discretionary Fund this week, and any families struggling financially during the long school holiday.

We pray for those who are unwell including Kathy Farbrother, Ros Deane, Diana James, Wendy Turner, Lynn Busfield and Jenny Watling.

Among those who have died we remember Dadlin Williams and Margaret Shepherd.

HYMN [To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise](#)

1. To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise  
    in hymns of adoration;  
    to thee bring sacrifice of praise  
    with shouts of exultation:  
    bright robes of gold the fields adorn,  
    the hills with joy are ringing,  
    the valleys stand so thick with corn  
    that even they are singing.
2. And now, on this our festal day,  
    thy bounteous hand confessing,  
    upon thine altar, Lord, we lay  
    the first-fruits of thy blessing:  
    by thee our souls are truly fed  
    with gifts of grace supernal;  
    thou who dost give us earthly bread,  
    give us the bread eternal.
3. We bear the burden of the day,  
    and often toil seems dreary;  
    but labour ends with sunset ray,  
    and rest comes for the weary:  
    may we, the angel-reaping o'er,  
    stand at the last accepted,  
    Christ's golden sheaves for evermore  
    to garner bright elected.

4. O blessèd is that land of God,  
where saints abide for ever;  
where golden fields spread far and broad,  
where flows the crystal river:  
the strains of all its holy throng  
with ours today are blending;  
thrice blessèd is that harvest-song  
which never hath an ending.

*(William Chatterton Dix alt)*

*Imagining all whom we miss, we pray for each other:*

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

**Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England**

is copyright © the Archbishop's Council (2000)

