



The Benefice of  
Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth, Denholme  
Sunday 1 August 2021



## Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Alison leads us in our worship

### Preparation

We do not live by bread alone,  
but by the Word who became flesh  
and dwells among us.

Christ is the true bread of heaven,  
the manna of freedom.

Come, let us worship and give thanks

### Call to Worship

Come, let us worship our God,  
for there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,  
one God and Parent of all,  
who is above all and through all and in all.

**We come with humility, gentleness, and patience,  
bearing with one another in love.**

### Opening Prayer

### Silence is kept

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

### Prayers of Penitence

Let us confess our sin together,  
for we have all fallen short of the glory of God

**God, you have called us to live lives  
worthy of the calling  
to which we have been called.**

**But we confess to you and each other  
that we have not always spoken the truth in love;  
we have not always made every effort  
to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.  
Forgive us and, by your grace,  
help us to grow in every way  
into him who is our head, Jesus Christ.  
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.**

## **The Gloria**

**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.**

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.**

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

### **First Reading: Ephesians 4:1-16**

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said,

'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;  
he gave gifts to his people.'

(When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

**Thanks be to God for the gift of his word.**

## Gospel reading: John 6:24-35

So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."' Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

**Thanks be to God for the gift of his Holy Word.**

## Reflection from Richard

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.

We live in a time when there are lots of different kinds of bread that we can choose from: We can have white bread, brown bread, wholemeal, gluten free, seeded bread, soda bread.

Some kinds of bread are perfect alongside particular foods. If you are making a curry you can have naan or chapati. If you are having fajitas you will wrap them in a tortilla. You might fancy a pitta filled with something Mediterranean, a burger in a burger bun or a pizza (which is also a kind of breadish dish!)

And we haven't even started on the many different kinds of bread yet: brioche and ciabatta, focaccia and baguette, cornbread, rye bread or a milk roll.

Nor have we started on the controversy too over the names for a bread bun or a bap or a tea cake! And the local variations like the stottie or the barm cake!

Bread is also very versatile. You can put it outside savoury things to make a sandwich, or around fruit to make a summer fruit pudding. You can bake it to make bread and butter pudding or heat it for your toast and marmalade. You can fry it or put it inside bacon and bake it, you can cover it in beaten egg and make what the French call “hidden bread!”

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.

Bread is always there somewhere. Bread is one of our basics and a foundational part of our diet. It is something that is always on my shopping list in one form or other. There is usually an emergency loaf in the freezer, just in case. If we have a loaf of bread we will be OK!

Bread may not always be the feature of the meal or the bit that seeks attention in our feast, yet it is always present and we would notice its absence. It fills us up and settles the stomach, it comforts and provides a store of energy for later.

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.

How does bread fit into your life? Take time to notice it. It can easily be missed because it is always there.

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.

### Affirmation of Faith

Let us 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.**

Living God,  
in a world that looks for instant satisfaction,  
quick fixes,  
fast food,  
we turn again to you,  
seeking eternal fulfilment,  
lasting renewal  
and enduring nourishment through Christ.  
Meet with us we pray,  
and feed us once more,  
in body mind and spirit.

**Amen**

Lord who watches over us, we pray to you and ask  
that you be with all our congregation and everyone who is coming to terms with  
the release from the pandemic regulations and the opening up of the lives of  
those of us who have felt lonely and helpless for the last 18 difficult months.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

As our churches are re-opening and welcoming all who come to worship and  
pray to you, let them feel your support and give us all the confidence and a  
hope for the future as we return to our well-loved church buildings and places  
of worship. Let us be aware of your love, guidance and helping hand for  
everyone.

Bless all who minister and care for your people, especially Alison and Anna who  
have joined our ministry team within this Benefice. Bless also all those working  
in mission and outreach wherever they may be. We pray for all who are  
preparing for confirmation, baptism and weddings and who are looking forward  
to their special day reaching out ready to come to you.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Blessed are you Lord, for the gifts you give to your people. We pray for the  
NHS, social workers, carers, home helps, for all who seek to meet the needs of  
others within their communities.

We pray especially for those who live in deserts, in the barren areas of the world; for places where crops are meagre or have failed and where your people are in danger from starvation.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Lord, giver of all good things,  
we give you thanks for all you have provided for us.

We pray for our homes and our loved ones, for friends and neighbours; that we may all be sensitive and caring in our community. Be with our children and young people who have left their schools to start their holidays, and for those who will go forward to a new upper school or university in the autumn. Lord, we ask you to be with all the athletes competing at the Olympics in Tokyo from countries worldwide. Take care of everyone including all the supporting teams from physios to caterers making sure all their needs are met. Keep them all safe and surrounded by your loving care.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Lord, comfort all who have run out of energy or whose abilities are failing. We pray for those who are weak through hunger and or neglect; for those who are sick and needing care and attention, that they may know you are with them always and that you are the God who knows their suffering and feels their pain. We give thanks for all who have entered into newness of life with you in your kingdom. We pray for loved ones who serve you now in glory either recently or in years past.

Merciful Father

**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

**The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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 for ever. Amen.**

### Closing Prayer

Holy Father,  
who gathered us around the table of your Son  
to share a meal with the whole household of God:  
in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace,  
gather people of every race and language  
to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Blessing

May God,  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,  
fill you with all good things,  
providing for you today and forever.  
And the blessing of God Almighty,  
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
Rest upon you, and remain with you  
today and always,  
*Amen*

### Sending Out

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
**In the Name of Christ! Amen!**

