

Worship for Sunday 1st August 2021
from Brian & Clare Kennard

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

Suggested hymn: *There is none like you*

THERE IS NONE LIKE YOU,
No one else can touch my heart like You do.
I could search for all eternity long and find
There is none like You.

Your mercy flows like a river wide,
And healing comes from Your hands.
Suffering children are safe in Your arms;
There is none like You.

Prayer time:

Be still and focus on the awesome God we serve: great beyond all words, but revealing Himself through His Word, and most clearly through the Word who became flesh - the Lord Jesus Christ. Express your adoration, worship and praise in whatever ways you can.

The Bible says, “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 4: 8-9)

Let God speak to you about the attitudes and actions that need changing in your life. Confess to Him your weaknesses and failures, and receive His cleansing and forgiveness as He has promised.

Prayer for today (“Collect”):

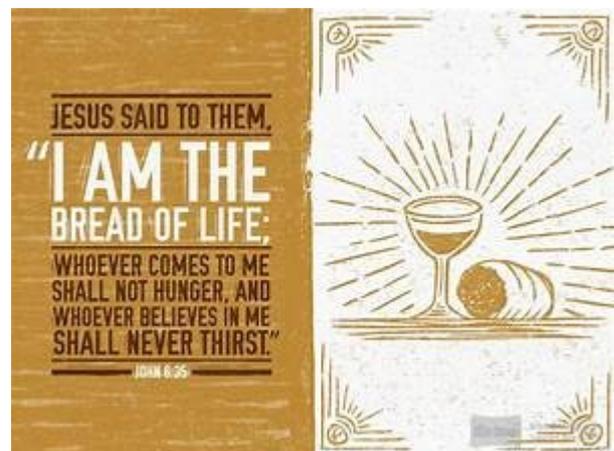
Lord and giver of life,
You alone nourish and sustain Your people,
through Christ, the bread of life.
Feed our hunger and quench our thirst,
that we may no longer work for what fails to satisfy,
but do what you require, in obedience and faith:
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading: If you have a Bible of your own, please read **Psalm 51: 1-12**

Reading: John 6: 24 - 35

²⁴So 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. ²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” ²⁶Jesus 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. ²⁷Do 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.”

²⁸Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” ²⁹Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰So 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? ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³²Then 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. ³³For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” ³⁵Jesus 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.”



Sermon: “Feed me with food convenient for me” (Proverbs 30:8, AV Bible)

Jesus made this claim to be “the bread of life”, but what did He mean? After all, if I told you “I am a

sauage roll” I think you’d find that rather strange, wouldn’t you? Well, to unpack these words of Jesus, I think the best way to start is to understand that menu choices in first century Palestine were rather limited. We are familiar with a wide range of food choices - even in prison- like Pizza and other Italian food, Curries from Asia, Burgers originating in the USA, Carribean and African foods like bananas and so on. Not so for ordinary people listening to Jesus. Bread was what kept them alive. They had fish, but even meat was more for special feasts for the ordinary family. So, what Jesus was saying in a nutshell was: “You can’t survive without me.” Now that’s quite a claim, and all around the world there are people, some of them successful and prosperous, who have no thought for Jesus at all. So is Jesus mistaken? Surely what He is saying to us is that it’s impossible to have the life that God intended, eternal life, a life in relationship to God, without Him. As St. Paul puts it: “There is one God and one mediator (go-between) between God and man, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy2:5)

Second, Jesus is a better supplier than Moses (see v.32 for example). It’s not that Moses was a failure in doing God’s work, nor that the manna that miraculously supplied the Israelites in the Exodus was worthless. What we have in the Exodus is a sampler or taster of the real thing - that is Jesus, who gave his life as a sacrifice to supply our need for forgiveness and reconciliation with God. (see John 12:24 for example). Why be content with a tiny piece of cheese or cake when you can have a whole slice! To be useful to us, wheat has to be crushed and made into flour to bake bread from. In the same way Jesus was “pierced for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities.” (see Isaiah 53:5) Jesus the bread of life leads us straight to the Lord’s Supper (Communion) when we are reminded physically of the “great salvation” Jesus has bought for us by his body and blood poured out.

Semi-finally, bread of the finest quality is absolutely useless unless you actually eat it! It isn’t enough to know Bible stories or to quote verses from hymns and songs. We have to enter into the reality of which these things speak. Most importantly of all, we must **receive** the Lord Jesus into our lives (see v.35, but also look at John 1:12 which says “to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God..” Is that your testimony? Make sure it is!

Prayers of intercession

In your own words, remember before God...people

affected by severe weather in many parts of the world..those in authority in this country and around the world grappling with the present crisisall those “on the front line” whether NHS staff, transport workers, shop workers, the emergency services...those most personally affected by the Covid-19 outbreak: the bereaved, those seriously ill, those who have already lost their jobs.. the Church of Jesus Christ as together we seek to witness to the love and care of God in word and action....and the many other difficult problems humanity faces...and for yourself and your family. Remember, too, thankfulness!

The Lord’s Prayer (traditional version):

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
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.

Suggested Hymn: *My hope is built on nothing less*

MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS

Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

*When the mountains are falling,
When the waters are rising,
I shall be safe in You.
Though the nations are quaking,
Every kingdom be shaken,
Still I will rest in You.*

When darkness seems to hide Your face,
I rest on Your unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.

The blessing: Now may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with and remain with us always. **Amen.**