

# ST PETER & ST PAUL'S CHURCH, AYLESFORD



## A Service of the Word with Holy Communion

### The Work of God

Trinity 9

1st August 2021

#### Welcome and Gathering

#### Call to Worship

We come with our curiosity and questions.  
We come seeking answers.  
We are grateful for our daily bread, but  
we yearn for the bread of eternal life.  
Let us seek to be fed and filled with God's  
life and love.

#### A Prayer of Approach

O God, giver of manna from heaven,  
**you provided for Moses' followers in the  
desert.**

O Christ, bread of life,  
**you fed the five thousand with five  
loaves and two fish.**

O Holy Spirit of the living God, here with  
us as we come together today,  
**we ask you to feed us with all that we  
need, and that, thus fed, we might be  
satisfied. Amen.**

#### Hymn

O Breath of Life, come sweeping through us,  
revive your church with life and power.  
O Breath of Life, come cleanse, renew us,  
and fit your Church to meet this hour.

O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,  
till humbly we confess our need;  
then, in your tenderness remake us,  
revive, restore – for this we plead.

O Breath of Love, come breathe within us,  
renewing thought and will and heart;  
come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,  
revive your church in every part.

Revive us, Lord; is zeal abating  
while harvest fields are vast and white?  
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting –  
equip your Church to spread the light.

*Elizabeth Ann Porter Head (1850-1936)*

#### Prayer of Confession

Lord, when we fail to trust you in all things:  
**forgive us, and help us to trust you more.**

When we complain that you have forsaken  
us, you have left us, abandoned us:  
**forgive us, and help us to trust you more.**

When we choose to go our own way  
because your way doesn't seem to make  
sense:  
**forgive us, and help us to trust you more.**

When we don't challenge injustice, and  
instead, accept things as they are:  
**forgive us, and help us to trust you more.**

When we keep asking for more signs,  
more proof, more of everything:  
**forgive us, and help us to trust you more.**

When we trust a little, then snatch it back:  
**forgive us, and help us to trust you more.**  
**Amen.**

## Assurance of Forgiveness

We have confessed that we have not trusted God with our lives, and have gone our own way. We know we are loved and forgiven, and welcomed back into God's everlasting arms. **Amen.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Thank you, Lord, that we can trust you in all things. Even when we don't understand, when we feel lost and alone, we can trust you.**

**When we wander in the wilderness, thank you that you are there by our side, that you reach out and touch us with outstretched, open arms.**

**Thank you, Lord, that we are safe with you. For you provide all we need, here on earth, and eternally. Amen.**

## The Collect

**Gracious Father, revive your Church in our day, and make her holy, strong and faithful, for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

Exodus 16.2-4, 9-15

In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death." Then the Lord said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my

instructions.

Then Moses told Aaron, "Say to the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling.'" While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the Lord appearing in the cloud. The Lord said to Moses, "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.'" That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 6.24-35

Once the crowd realised that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" 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. 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." Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." So they asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" 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. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread." 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

Hymn

I am the Bread of Life  
You who come to me shall not hunger;  
And who believe in me shall not thirst,  
No one can come to me  
Unless the Father beckons.

*And I will raise you up,  
And I will raise you up,  
And I will raise you up  
On the last day!*

The bread that I will give  
Is my flesh for the life of the world,  
And if you eat of this bread,  
You shall live forever,  
You shall live forever!

*And I will raise you up ...*

I am the Resurrection,  
I am the Life  
If you believe in me,  
Even though you die,  
You shall live forever.

*And I will raise you up ...*

Yes Lord, I believe  
That you are the Christ;  
The Son of God  
who has come into the world.

*And I will raise you up ...*

*Sr. Suzanne Toolan, RSM*

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

*Response*

Jesus, bread of life,  
**help us to trust that you will provide all  
we need.**

*And at the end*

Jesus, true bread of heaven,  
**help us to trust that you will provide all  
we need. Help us to feed on you and  
draw our strength from you, and may we  
be eternally blessed by the nourishment  
you give us. Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### Hymn

*Bread of life, hope of the world,  
Jesus Christ, our brother:  
feed us now, give us life,  
lead us to one another.*

As we proclaim your death,  
as we recall your life,  
we remember your promise  
to return again.

*Bread of life, hope of the world ...*

This bread we break and share  
was scattered once as grain:  
just as now it is gathered,  
make your people one.

*Bread of life, hope of the world ...*

We eat this living bread,  
we drink this saving cup:  
sign of hope in our broken world,  
source of lasting love.

*Bread of life, hope of the world,  
Jesus Christ, our brother:  
feed us now, give us life,  
lead us to one another.*

*Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)*

*© 1982, 1987 Bernadette Farrell*

## Offertory Prayer

Lord God, you who are able to do far  
more abundantly than all we ask or think;  
stir the power within us, that the gifts we  
give may be used to your glory. May our  
offering bless your church, your people,  
your creation. **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.**

... in their constant hymn.

**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.**

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

... Trinity of perpetual peace.

**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.**

## Breaking of the Bread

I break this bread and take this cup so  
that we all share in the life of Christ.

**God's gifts for all God's people.**

## Invitation to Communion

Draw near with faith. Receive the body  
of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for  
you. Eat in remembrance that he died for  
you, and feed on him in your hearts by  
faith with thanksgiving.

## Giving of Communion

The body and blood of Christ.  
**Amen.**

*Please wait to be guided by a sidesperson.  
There will be no words said at the altar.*

## Prayer after Communion

Holy Father, who gathered us here around  
the table of your Son to share this 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. **Amen.**

## Sending

### News and Notices

### Hymn

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my all in all,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,

Scorned by the ones He came to save:  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied -  
For every sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain:  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine -  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

*Keith Getty & Stuart Townend  
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## A sending out prayer and blessing

As we seek to do what you want, Lord,  
may we bring bread to the hungry – food  
for bodies and food for souls, strength for  
the journey, and hope for the future.

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you  
and with all those you love and miss,  
this day and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord;  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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