

Sunday 2nd August
Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Today's Collect

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.

Post Communion Prayer

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.

Next Week Services: Sunday 9th August

6.00pm	Norton & Lenchwick	Evensong
10.00am	Harvington	Holy Communion
11.00am	Church Lench	Lay Led (Church @ 11)
10.00am	Rous Lench	Church @ 10

Events

- Bimble Car Drive out on 8th August – Contact Tina Hill, tinahill18@hotmail.com for tickets!
- Submissions for September Arch Messenger – due by 10th Aug.
- Next Coffee Morning in St Egwin's - Sat 15th Aug.
- Sustainable Fower arranging at St James, Bishampton – Wed 26th Aug, 7:30pm. £5 entry including drinks and nibbles. Contact bishamptonstjames@outlook.com.

This Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 55.1-5.*

⁵⁵ 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. ² 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.³ 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.⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.⁵ 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.

This Weeks Psalm: *Psalms 145.8-9, 15-end.*

⁸ *The Lord is gracious and merciful, long-suffering and of great goodness.*

⁹ *The Lord is loving to everyone and his mercy is over all his creatures.*

¹⁵ *The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up all those who are bowed down.*

¹⁶ *The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.*

¹⁷ *You open wide your hand and fill all things living with plenty.*

¹⁸ *The Lord is righteous in all his ways and loving in all his works.*

¹⁹ *The Lord is near to those who call upon him,
to all who call upon him faithfully.*

²⁰ *He fulfils the desire of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.*

²¹ *The Lord watches over those who love him,
but all the wicked shall he destroy.*

²² *My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord,
and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.*

This Week's Second Reading: *Romans 9.1-5.*

⁹ I am speaking the truth in Christ-I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit-² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh.

⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵ to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *Matthew 14.13-21.*

¹³ 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.¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.¹⁵ 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.'

¹⁶ Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.'

¹⁷ They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.'¹⁸ And he said, 'Bring them here to me.'

¹⁹ 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.²⁰ All ate, and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.



Next Weeks Readings: *1Kings 19.9-18, Psalm 85.8-13, Romans 10.5-15, Matthew 14.22-23.*

Prayer of Intercession

Great God of creative abundance. Take away our pretensions of self-reliance and unmask for us our images of self-security. Help us to realise that our blessings of health, wealth, and power are fragile idols of sustenance, and that we entrust our souls to them at our peril. May we learn instead to see ourselves and our world with your eyes; may we come to appreciate where true value lies; both within ourselves, and in the lives of others. Lord in you Mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

We offer our resources of people – from ministers to volunteers to occasional attendees; we offer our resources as a community; we offer our building, our contacts, our friendships, and the body of Christ that is this church in this place. May we learn together the lesson that hoarding the resources of the kingdom is not what we are called to do. Grant us the courage to release to your service the gifts you have given us. Lord in you Mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

We pray for those who live in need, poverty, uncertainty, and fear; aware that you call us to play our own part in the coming of your kingdom of peace and justice. We pray for all those who are hungry today, and especially for those who have this week used a food bank for the first time to feed themselves or their families. We pray also for those who have an unhealthy or abusive relationship with food and drink. From the overweight to the anorexic, from the middle-class drinker to the alcoholic. We recognise how easily the kingdom blessings of food and wine can become distorted in our own bodies and mental health. Lord in you Mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

We pray for ourselves. May we learn to share both the hidden and visible blessings of our lives, offering ourselves and all that we are and have, to the service of your in-breaking kingdom of equality and justice. Lord in you Mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

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