

ARCH Group's aim: "To show our love for God and You"

Weekly Notices

4th August 2024

Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Today's Collect

Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Services: Sunday 11th August 2024

10.00 am	<i>at Harvington Baptist Church (HBC)</i>	HBC Service
11.00 am	Church Lench	Morning Service
11.00 am	Abbots Morton	Holy Communion+

*Please remember **Caring Hands** while you're shopping and add an extra item or two to your basket. They need toiletries and toilet rolls, tins and dried goods, and items that can be cooked via a kettle, single-ring hob or microwave*
ESPECIALLY DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

For Prayer

Heavenly Father, with heavy hearts, we pray for all those affected by events in Southport this week. Please comfort the bereaved, aid the recovery of those in hospital and be with all those who witnessed what happened. We pray for those whose safety and security have been violated. Let empathy and support be the focus of all action, not blame and retribution.

Lord, stand among us with your healing grace and strength.

Father, we pray for our world as it faces the problems caused by climate change. As you confront us for who we are, so we have been confronted with our guilt in failing to care for creation. We pray for fairer sharing of resources, so that all human needs may be met. We pray for safety as our planet changes and we face the consequences.

Lord, stand among us with your healing grace and strength.

Lord God, as we gaze in awe at Olympic events, and witness what the human body can achieve, we pray for those who will never reach those heights; for those who are battling serious illness or disability, for whom life is painful and exhausting. May they know that their efforts are also worth medals and that every painful step forward is golden.

Lord, stand among us with your healing grace and strength.

For your Church, Father, we pray, and for us, your children; for the strength to bear witness in the midst of great upheavals and unpredictability; for the ability to meet the needs of our community and neighbourhoods in difficult days. We pray for all to whom we reach out with the offer of coffee and companionship, or food and other necessities of life. Come to our aid, Lord God, as we seek to aid others.

Lord, stand among us with your healing grace and strength.

Amen.

This Week's First Reading: *Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15*

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.'

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.'

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, 'Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, "Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining."'¹⁰ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹²'I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, "At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God."'

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp.

¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, 'What is it?' For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, 'It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.'

This Week's Psalm: *Psalm 78:23-29*

- 23 So he commanded the clouds above and opened the doors of heaven.
- 24 He rained down upon them manna to eat and gave them the grain of heaven.
- 25 So mortals ate the bread of angels; he sent them food in plenty.
- 26 He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens and led out the south wind by his might.
- 27 He rained flesh upon them as thick as dust and winged fowl like the sand of the sea.
- 28 He let it fall in the midst of their camp and round about their tents.
- 29 So they ate and were well filled, for he gave them what they desired.

This Week's Second Reading: *Ephesians 4:1-16*

¹I, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said, 'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.'⁹ (When it says, 'He ascended,' what does it mean but that he

Ephesians 4:1-16 continued

had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until 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. ¹⁴We 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. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit 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.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *John 6:24-35*

²⁴When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were at the place where Jesus had given the bread, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the lake, 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.'

John 6:24-35 continued

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.’

Next Week’s First Reading: *1 Kings 19:4-8*

⁴Elijah went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: ‘It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.’

⁵Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, ‘Get up and eat.’ ⁶He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. ⁷The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, ‘Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.’ ⁸He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 34:1-8*

- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
- 2 My soul shall glory in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.
- 3 O magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.
- 4 I sought the Lord and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.
- 5 Look upon him and be radiant and your faces shall not be ashamed.
- 6 This poor soul cried, and the Lord heard me and saved me from all my troubles.
- 7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and delivers them.
- 8 O taste and see that the Lord is gracious; blessed is the one who trusts in him.

Next Week's Second Reading: *Ephesians 4:25-5:2*

²⁵Putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil.

²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy.

²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *John 6:35, 41-51*

³⁵Jesus said to the crowd, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'
⁴¹Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.'
⁴²They were saying, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"?'
⁴³Jesus answered them, 'Do not complain among yourselves.
⁴⁴No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day.
⁴⁵It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me.
⁴⁶Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father.
⁴⁷Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life.
⁴⁸I am the bread of life.
⁴⁹Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.
⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.
⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'