

## COMMUNION HYMNS: 'Bread of Life, Hope of the World'

### Refrain:

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

1. As we proclaim your death  
as we recall your life,  
We remember your promise  
to return again. **Refrain**

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

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

You are the bread of peace,  
you are the wine of joy,  
Broken now for your people,  
poured in endless love. **Refrain**

© Bernadette Farrell

'I Come with Joy' – (HON 289)

'This is My Body' – (HON 663)

## POST COMMUNION

God our creator,  
you feed your children with the true manna,  
the living bread from heaven:  
let this holy food sustain us  
through our earthly pilgrimage  
until we come to that place  
where hunger and thirst are no more;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



**FINAL HYMN:** 'Will You Come and Follow me' – (740)

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, Common Worship: Additional Collects and Common Worship: Times and Seasons material from which is included in this service are copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000, 2004 & 2006 respectively. Scripture quotations are from the NRSV - National Council of the Churches of Christ CCLI License No: 57904 Charity No: 1134140

13th Sunday after Trinity

25th August 2024

## GATHERING HYMN: 'God with Us, Creator, Father'

1. God with us: Creator, Father,  
bringing everything to birth;  
Mother of the whole creation,  
fire of stars and life of earth:  
down the countless years composing,  
from the earth's evolving night,  
love's response to love, and forming  
mind and soul to seek your light.

3. God with us: Unwearing Spirit,  
from the birth of time and space,  
surging through unconscious being,  
joyful, Life-Creating Grace:  
through the centuries you find us;  
you, as God, inspire our prayer.  
Life and Power at work within us,  
Love for ever, everywhere!

2. God with us: Redeemer, Brother,  
Friend for ever at our side,  
here, in flesh, you walked among us,  
taking up your cross, you died.  
Crucified, despised, rejected,  
Perfect Love, who shared our shame,  
streaming from the cross, your judgement,  
full of mercy, clears our name.

4. God, Transcendent, far beyond us,  
closest Friend, unfailing Guide:  
through the ages, wronged, affronted,  
in your poor, still crucified!  
God with us: convict, forgive us;  
by your holy love destroy  
all that hinders peace and justice:  
fill this aching world with joy!

©Alan Gaunt

## COLLECT:

Almighty God,  
you search us and know us:  
may we rely on you in strength  
and rest on you in weakness,  
now and in all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**



## FIRST READING

**Joshua 24: 1-2a & 14-18**

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah

and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.

‘Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.’

Then the people answered, ‘Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.’

For the word of the Lord                   **Thanks be to God**

## **SECOND READING**

**Ephesians 6:10-20**

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make

known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

For the word of the Lord                   **Thanks be to God**

## **GOSPEL HYMN— ‘Be Thou My Vision’ – (64)**

**We sing verse 5 after the Gospel Reading**

## **GOSPEL**

**John 6: 56-69**

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.’ He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, ‘This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?’ But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, ‘Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, ‘For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.’

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, ‘Do you also wish to go away?’ Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **HYMN OF THE GIFTS: ‘Take My Life, and Let it Be’ – (605)**

“LORD,  
to whom shall we go?  
You have the words  
of eternal life.”

