

15th August 2021 (Year B) G Rev'd David Willsher

Today is my last Sunday among you after almost 10 years of ministry. I have found it to be a privilege and a great responsibility to serve as your priest. I have grown significantly as a priest and in my own Christian faith in my time here. I have also enjoyed working alongside others in the Diocese especially Bishop Matt and earlier Bishop Andrew. I wish you every blessing as you continue your faith journey with our loving God.

Reverend David Willsher

Sentence of Scripture

Jesus said, 'Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me,
and I in them.'

John 6.56

Prayer of the day

Everliving God,
your Son, Jesus Christ, gave himself as living bread
for the life of the world:
give us such a knowledge of his presence
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life
to serve you continually;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Readings

Psalm 111

¹ O praise the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart:

**in the company of the upright
and among the congregation.**

² The works of the Lord are great:

and studied by all who take delight in them.

³ His deeds are majestic and glorious:

and his righteousness stands for ever.

⁴ His marvellous acts have won him a name to be remembered:

the Lord is gracious and merciful.

⁵ He gives food to those that fear him:

he remembers his covenant for ever.

⁶ He showed his people the power of his acts:

in giving them the heritage of the heathen.

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just:

and all his commandments are sure;

⁸ They stand firm for ever and ever:

they are done in faithfulness and in truth.

⁹ He sent redemption to his people, he ordained his covenant for ever:

holy is his name and worthy to be feared.

¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
and of good understanding are those that keep his commandments:

his praise shall endure for ever.

Ephesians 6:10-24

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² 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. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness.

¹⁵ As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak. ²¹ So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus will tell you everything. He is a dear brother and a faithful minister in the Lord. ²² I am sending him to you for this very purpose, to let you know how we are, and to encourage your hearts. ²³ Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ. (NRSV)

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

John 6:51–58

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

⁵² The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵ for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ 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 forever.” (NRSV)

This is the Gospel of our Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**