

## Readings for the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost – 4th August 2024

### Sentence

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

Isaiah 55.2

### Collect

Living God,  
whose Son Jesus fed the hungry  
with the bread of his life  
and the word of his kingdom:  
renew your people with your heavenly grace,  
and in all our weakness  
sustain us with your true and living bread,  
Jesus Christ our Lord;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## 1st Reading – 2 Samuel 11.26-12.13a

Our first reading is taken from the Second Book of Samuel, Chapter 11 beginning at verse 26.

<sup>26</sup> When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. <sup>27</sup> When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son. <sup>1</sup> and the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, 'There were two men in a certain city, one rich and the other poor. <sup>2</sup> The rich man had very many flocks and herds; <sup>3</sup> but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meagre fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. <sup>4</sup> Now there came a traveller to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him.' <sup>5</sup> Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, 'As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; <sup>6</sup> he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.' <sup>7</sup> Nathan said to David, 'You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; <sup>8</sup> I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. <sup>9</sup> Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. <sup>10</sup> Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. <sup>11</sup> Thus says the LORD: I will raise up trouble against you from within your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbour, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this very sun. <sup>12</sup> For you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.' <sup>13</sup> David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the LORD.' Nathan said to David, 'Now the LORD has put away your sin; you shall not die.'

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

## Psalm 51.1-12

Our Psalm today comes from Psalm 51.1-12. I will read one verse, and I invite you to respond with the next verse,

- <sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, in your enduring goodness:  
according to the fulness of your compassion  
blot out my offences.
- <sup>2</sup> **Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness:  
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- <sup>3</sup> For I acknowledge my rebellion:  
and my sin is ever before me.
- <sup>4</sup> **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your  
eyes: so you will be just in your sentence and blameless  
in your judging.**
- <sup>5</sup> Surely in wickedness I was brought to birth:  
and in sin my mother conceived me.
- <sup>6</sup> **You that desire truth in the inward parts:  
O teach me wisdom in the secret places of the heart.**
- <sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- <sup>8</sup> **Make me hear of joy and gladness:  
let the bones which you have broken rejoice.**
- <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins:  
and blot out all my iniquities.
- <sup>10</sup> **Create in me a clean heart, O God:  
and renew a right spirit within me.**
- <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me out from your presence:  
do not take your holy spirit from me.
- <sup>12</sup> **O give me the gladness of your help again:  
and support me with a willing spirit.**

## 2nd Reading – Ephesians 4.1-16

Our second reading is taken from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians, Chapter 4, beginning at verse 16

<sup>1</sup> I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. <sup>7</sup> But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup> Therefore it is said, 'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.' <sup>9</sup> (When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup> The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until 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. <sup>14</sup> We 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. <sup>15</sup> But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and knitted 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.

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

## **Gospel – John 6.24-35**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, chapter 6, beginning at verse 24. **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>24</sup> So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. <sup>25</sup> When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, ‘Rabbi, when did you come here?’ <sup>26</sup> Jesus 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. <sup>27</sup> Do 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.’ <sup>28</sup> Then they said to him, ‘What must we do to perform the works of God?’ <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.’ <sup>30</sup> So 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?’ <sup>31</sup> Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, “He gave them bread from heaven to eat.” <sup>32</sup> Then 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. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ <sup>34</sup> They said to him, ‘Sir, give us this bread always.’ <sup>35</sup> Jesus 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.’

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