

KSAT Worship Service for Sunday – 2nd August 2020

THEME – ‘Feeding of the 5000’

Thanks to David Askew for this week’s service.

HymnMP367 – Jesus is Lord <https://youtu.be/prEq8NOx3vs>

Jesus is Lord! Creation’s voice proclaims it,
For by His power each tree and flower was planned and made.

Jesus is Lord! The universe declares it;
sun, moon and stars in heaven cry: Jesus is Lord!

Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord! Praise Him with ‘Hallelujahs’, for Jesus is Lord!

Jesus is Lord! Yet from His throne eternal
in flesh He came to die in pain on Calvary’s tree.

Jesus is Lord! From Him all life proceeding,
yet gave His life a ransom thus setting us free.

Jesus is Lord! O’er sin the mighty conqueror,
from death He rose and all His foes shall own His name.

Jesus is Lord! God sends His Holy Spirit
to show by works of power that Jesus is Lord.

Prayer

In Psalm 122 David says *‘I rejoiced with those who said to me let us go up to the house of the Lord’*.

O God our Father, we also rejoice that we can come to You today, for the opportunity to bring out thanks and praise for all the goodness You have shown to us. For the beauty of Your creation which we see all around us; it speaks of Your greatness and Your love towards us. For the person of Your Son, Jesus, who came into our world to be our Saviour. Thank you for all that He has done and what this means for us. We want to worship You as you deserve, and to give You the honour that is due.

Forgive us for all those times when we have failed You, when our lives have not demonstrated Your love or Your ways. Give us Your Holy Spirit, and as we learn to hear His voice and follow His ways, may we live lives that are useful and honouring to You.

We thank you for Your word. We pray that when we read it in a few minutes, You will speak to us through it.

Hear our prayer, because we ask it in Jesus name. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

Psalm 8

*O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth,
Who have set Your glory above the heavens!
Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength,
Because of Your enemies, that You may silence the enemy and the avenger.
When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,
What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?
For You have made him a little lower than the angels,
And You have crowned him with glory and honour.
You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands;
You have put all things under his feet,
All sheep and oxen— even the beasts of the field, the birds of the air,
And the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas.
O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!*

Hymn MP 187 – God is love https://youtu.be/gYWW_P9MH4

God is love, let heav'n adore Him; God is love, let earth rejoice;
Let creation sing before Him, and exalt Him with one voice.
He who laid the earth's foundation, He who spread the heav'ns above,
He who breathes through all creation, He is love, eternal love.

God is love and He enfoldeth all the world in one embrace;
With unfailing grasp He holdeth every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking under sorrow's iron rod,
All the sorrow, all the aching wrings with pain the heart of God.

God is love, and though with blindness sin afflicts the souls of men,
God's eternal loving-kindness holds and guides them even then.
Sin and death and hell shall never o'er us final triumph gain;
God is love, so love for ever o'er the universe must reign.

Bible reading – Matthew 14 vs 1-21

John the Baptist Beheaded

14 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the reports about Jesus,² and he said to his attendants, "This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead! That is why miraculous powers are at work in him."

³ Now Herod had arrested John and bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, ⁴ for John had been saying to him: "It is not lawful for you to have her."⁵ Herod wanted to kill John, but he was afraid of the people, because they considered John a prophet.

⁶ On Herod's birthday the daughter of Herodias danced for the guests and pleased Herod so much ⁷ that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. ⁸ Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist."⁹ The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he ordered that her request be granted ¹⁰ and had John beheaded in the prison. ¹¹ His head was brought in on a platter and given to the girl, who carried it to her mother. ¹² John's disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus.

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

¹³ When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

¹⁵ As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

¹⁶ Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

¹⁷ "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

¹⁸ "Bring them here to me," he said. ¹⁹ And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ²¹ The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Hymn MP1350 – Speak, O Lord <https://youtu.be/zOKzvtbUwTw>

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You, to receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today, in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us all Your purposes, for Your glory.

Teach us Lord full obedience, Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see, Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail; let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises; and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, 'til Your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.

Reflection on Matthew 14 vs 1-21

I wonder how you respond when you receive some really tragic news. Some unexpected illness or the death of someone you hold dear. Your first reaction will be to seek solace from close family and friends. You will derive strength from your faith. You will want to be quiet and find some place to grieve.

I chose to read the passage from Matthew 14 from 1-21 it gives a more complete picture of what was going on. You can imagine how Jesus and the disciples felt when they heard the news about their dear friend John the Baptist. Like us, they would want to be quiet and find some place to grieve. But it was short lived. The crowds actually got there ahead of them. It is easy to sympathise with the disciples who regarded this as an intrusion and wanted the crowd to go away. Not so with Jesus, who had compassion on them and healed the sick.

I wonder how we respond to the needs that we hear about in the world? We see the pictures on the television and there are not many days when we do not receive some literature through the post informing us of some need and asking for support. The crisis in The Yemen brought to us recently by Jeremy Bowen is an example of this. There are also significant needs in our own country and communities. It can all become overwhelming. We can't support them all. So, what can we do? I am sure we all know of people who have responded to God's call to go to some needy part of the world to help. We know a man called Garry, originally from Askham, near Penrith, who works for the Church Missionary Society. He supervises the building of schools and similar projects. Another friend we have, called Andrew, went to work in Nepal with International Nepal Fellowship as a dentist. I know someone else who has made several trips to China to help fit out orphanages with facilities for handicapped children, who would otherwise be discarded as rubbish.

But we are not all called to be missionaries – most of us are called to serve God in our local communities. When Jesus was faced with the 5,000 plus hungry people who needed feeding, he asked the disciples 'What have you got?' He asks us the same question. Our first response in gratitude to God's mercy and grace, must be to give ourselves completely to Him. This is what St Paul exhorts us to do in Romans 12 v1. This is what it says – *'Therefore I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. This is your spiritual act of worship.'*

How this expresses itself in relation to our giving to those in need will be different for each one of us. For some it may mean going overseas as a worker. For most of us, it will be through our praying, and our giving, whether money or use of our time. Every Christian should honour God with their giving. God doesn't ask us for what we don't have, but for what we do have. We need to hold our possessions in an open hand. I take inspiration from 'Captain Tom', who walked around his garden, I don't know how many times, raising millions of pounds for the NHS. We can think of lots of people who find simple ways of giving in practical ways. If we can do it in a way that brings honour and glory to Jesus – so much the better.

When the disciples brought Jesus five loaves and two small fish, they would think it was insignificant. But Jesus was able to take them and use them in a wonderful way. We might think that what we offer to God is small, even insignificant, but God is able to use whatever we offer in ways that go far beyond anything that we imagine. It is not ability that is important, but availability.

Because God is sovereign and all powerful, He would be able to meet all the needs of the world independently of us, but for some reason in God's infinite wisdom, he chooses not to. Instead He has chosen to work through His people, and if we are willing, we have the privilege of being part of that.

When I have been thinking and praying about this passage, I wondered about the significance of the twelve basketsful of broken pieces that were left over. I assume that each disciple had a basket and went around to collect all the broken pieces. Whichever way you look at it, there was so much more left over than when they started. I wonder what the disciples did with the leftovers! In the parallel passage in John 6, Jesus says '*let nothing be wasted*'. When we offer to God what we have, He will bless us in ways that go far beyond anything that we have given. Jesus is concerned for much more than our material needs. He wants to come into our lives bringing forgiveness, wholeness and peace.

This miracle of the feeding of 5,000 was one of the signs recorded in John's gospel. Signs that pointed people to Jesus - to who He was, and what He was able to do. This present crisis is an opportunity for us as Christians to reach out to those in need, and in some way to point them to Jesus.

Hymn MP 181 – God forgave my sin <https://youtu.be/SFV0OVeKdlw>

God forgave my sin in Jesus' name. I've been born again in Jesus' name
And in Jesus' name I come to you to share His love as He told me to.

*He said 'Freely, freely you have received, freely, freely give.
Go in my name, and because you believe others will know that I live.*

All power is given in Jesus' name, in earth and heaven in Jesus name
And in Jesus' name I come to you to share His power as He told me to.

God gives us life in Jesus' name, He lives in us in Jesus' name
And in Jesus' name I come to you, to share His peace as He told me to.

Prayer

God our Father, the great and merciful God, we bring to You this troubled world in which we live. We confess that we have not been good stewards of Your creation. We ask for mercy and forgiveness, and that You will help us to turn from our selfish ways. May we all find ways to contribute to a better world.

Jesus, Light of the World, shine in this world's darkness.

We bring to You all those who are dealing with the coronavirus outbreak, the government, the health workers, the police, and the scientists. Equip them with the strength and wisdom they need to bring us through these critical times.

Jesus, Light of the World, be their strength.

We thank You for all the good things that have happened, for kindnesses shown, for a greater appreciation of others, and a re-ordering of some of our values.

We continue to pray for Your Church, that we may come through this time stronger and with a better understanding of those things that really matter. We look forward to the time when we can all worship and fellowship together without fear. Be with those among our friends and families and in this community, who need Your healing and grace. We bring them to You by name

Jesus, Light of the World, shine in our hearts. Amen

Hymn MP 440 – Lord of creation <https://youtu.be/1OGq5vhSJLM>

Lord of creation, to You be all praise! Most mighty Your working, most wondrous Your ways!
Your glory and might are beyond us to tell, and yet in the heart of the humble You dwell.

Lord of all power, I give You my will, in joyful obedience Your tasks to fulfil.

Your bondage is freedom, Your service is song;
and, held in Your keeping, my weakness is strong.

Lord of all wisdom, I give You my mind, rich truth that surpasses man's knowledge to find.

What eye has not seen and what ear has not heard
is taught by Your Spirit and shines from Your Word.

Lord of all being, I give You my all; if ever I disown You, I stumble and fall;

But, sworn in glad service Your word to obey, I walk in Your freedom to the end of the way.

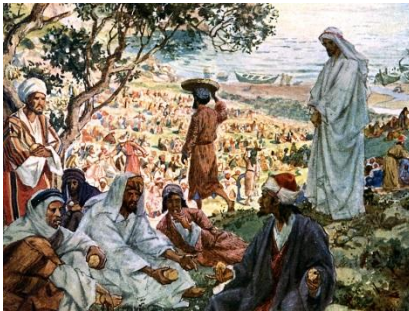
Blessing MP460 https://youtu.be/f_EiaScxD_c

May God's blessing surround you each day
As you trust Him and walk in His way
May his presence within guard and keep you from sin
Go in peace, go in joy, go in love

To think about:



A **small** amount
(offered to Jesus)
becomes:



a **feast** for a multitude
plus -



more than enough extras
for others!

**“If God can make something out of nothing,
which He did in making the universe and everything in it,
He can surely take our “little” and make it a lot!”**

Think about it what ‘little’ we can offer, offer it and see what God can do – as we take the mission opportunities given to us (the church) today!