

20th Sunday Ordinary Time (b) 18th August 2024

Introduction

*leader: Greet the people and name the Sunday of the Year (see above)
Acknowledge visitors and welcome them.
Remind everyone about refreshments at the end of Mass ????
Announce the theme of the liturgy (see next)*

Theme – MORE ABOUT THE BREAD OF LIFE

*leader: "Anyone who eats this bread will live forever."
These words of Jesus set the tone for our celebration today.
We who share this meal share in the life of Jesus.
And as he says: 'As I draw life from the Father,
so whoever eats me will draw life from me.'
This is the mystery that our sharing here
is not simply joining us to one another
in the way that every common meal
unites those who participate in it;
but that in our sharing here
we are caught up into the life of God.
(Announce the opening hymn:)*

Greeting

*presider: Ki te ingoa o te Matua, ✠ o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu: /
In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit:
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose table we share,
be with us:*

or

*Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord,
be with us all:*

*all: **And with your spirit.***

Penitential Rite *Invitation to Repentance*

either (confer with the Projectionist beforehand if you choose the: 'I confess'.)

*leader: Gathered together in Christ, let us ask forgiveness with
confidence, for God is gentle and compassionate.*

*all: **I confess: . . .***

and/or

*leader: We are tempted only to see the Eucharist in terms of correct belief, rather
than in terms of personal transformation: - (pause) - Lord, have mercy:*

*all: **Lord, have mercy:***

*leader: We hunger for true wisdom and love, but we define wisdom and love on
our terms, so trivialising Jesus' Word: - (pause) - Christ, have mercy:*

*all: **Christ, have mercy:***

*leader: We miss opportunities to ground God's Word in our everyday lives;
to speak God's justice to our world; the spirit of God we taste in the
Eucharistic action: - (pause) - Lord, have mercy:*

*all: **Lord, have mercy:***

leader: May almighty God, cleanse us of our sins and through the celebration of this Eucharist make us worthy to sit at the table of God's realm:

*all: **Amen***

GLORIA *invitation*

either

leader: With all the voices of heaven, let us sing praise, honour and glory to God.

or

leader: With peoples everywhere, let us glorify our God in joyful song.

Opening Prayer

leader: (Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ...) Wise and Gracious God,

You spread a table before us

and nourish Your people with the Word of Life

and the Bread from heaven.

In our sharing of these holy gifts,

show us our unity in You

and give us a taste of the life to come.

We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ:

*all: **Amen.***

Introduction to the first reading: *(Proverbs 9 : 1 – 6)*

leader: The reading from the Book of Proverbs hints that wisdom is not so hard to find that we cannot act wisely day-by-day, 'fearing the holy God' and 'turning away from evil'.

Introduction to the second reading: *(Ephesians 5 : 15 – 20)*

leader: Although Christians today can't live exactly as people did in Asia Minor in the first century, in the passage from the Letter to the Ephesians the writer gives guidelines that can apply equally to Ephesians of the first century and to would-be disciples of today! The times are still 'wicked' and we must be wise in the way we live.

Gospel Acclamation:

*all: **Alleluia! Alleluia!***

All who eat my flesh and drink my blood

live in me and I in them', says the Lord.

Alleluia!

Introduction to the gospel reading: *(John 6 : 51 – 58)*

leader: The writer of the gospel reasons that if we are united with Jesus – which means being united with others – we form a part of, 'his body' and we share his life which is the life of God. This gift of eternal life, comes to us would-be disciples through a believing reception of the Holy Eucharist.

Homily Notes *(presider)*

- *Where did anyone get the idea that Christians are cannibals? They probably got it from us, and we got it from Jesus. He claims to be the living bread. When the crowd gets squeamish, he says, "If you do not*

eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. . . for my flesh is real food and my blood real drink.” We are so used to hearing “The Body of Christ . . . The Blood of Christ” that we forget how shocking the words are.

- *Early Christians did not hesitate to say the Eucharist really is the body and blood of the Lord. What we later came to call “the Real Presence” was so real to them that they spoke forthrightly about eating and drinking the Lord. Over the centuries, Christians have tried to explain how bread and wine could be the body and blood of the Lord, but no explanation can be completely satisfying.*
- *Since the Middle Ages, Catholics have used a theory called, “transubstantiation”. This explanation has waned in popularity because it relies upon the philosophy as taught by Aristotle some 350 years before Christ. People attuned to contemporary science and philosophy, find the medieval explanation either inadequate or incomprehensible.*
- *Ultimately, the how of the Eucharist is not important. What is important is that the Lord said his body and blood are real food, that the bread and wine of the Eucharist are that body and blood, and that we are to remember him by sharing the Eucharist. For us, remembering is an intellectual activity, though our senses may be involved as well when, for example, an aroma sparks memories.*
- *In Scripture, remembering is something more. To remember something is to make it real once again. At Passover, Jews remember the Exodus by talking not about their ancestors 32 centuries ago, but about themselves as escapees from Egypt. They affirm that in remembering Moses and the Israelites, they too, are liberated from bondage.*
- *If you remember an event in salvation history, you enter it. It is really present. And so are you. Thus, when Jesus tells us to, “do this in remembrance of me,” he is not enjoining some intellectual activity or nostalgia for some “once upon a time.” He is saying, “enter the reality of being with me, meet the real me, eat the bread and wine that are my presence among you.” The Eucharist we share really is Christ present among us, present for us.*
- *Outsiders might not understand. In a sense, neither do we. We believe. We believe that Christ is with us in our Eucharistic celebration. We believe that his presence is not merely something that happens in our memories. We believe that he shares himself with us so that we may live as he did, proclaiming and being the love of God for the world.*
- *We are sent, as a consequence of the Eucharistic action in our liturgy, to transform our world in ways that avoid trivialising and spiritualising*

the meaning of God's reigning. Being involved in the promotion of the realm of God means extending the communion experience beyond the Eucharistic community. The Christian virtue that expresses this response is the virtue of fairness. Fairness incarnates and extends the power for life-giving symbolised by the Eucharistic action of sharing the 'Bread from Heaven'.

- *In terms that are plain – this involves promoting economic equality and power-sharing: 'It seeks a relativity between one person's or group's gain, and another's loss . . . ; It is about eliminating crippling effects from our relationships and our organisations; The vices that contradict communion-building are; market-thinking, which ignores externalities and makes efficiency an end rather than a means - and various forms of discrimination'.¹ Matter of justice were not peripheral to a spiritual gospel but were at the heart of Jesus' proclamation and practice.*

Creed / Statement of Faith

1 Neil Darragh

Intercessions – 20th Week Ordinary Time [Sun 18th – Sat 24th August 2024]*invitation to pray:*

leader: Friends in Christ, we believe that God shares all kinds of good things with us and we are grateful for all that we receive. Confident in God's goodwill and before we offer thanks for the Bread of Christ's Body, we join in prayer for our world:

1: For the leaders of the Church; that they may speak the message of life, united by the Bread that lasts: - (pause) - God of Community, hear us:

*all: **God of Community, hear us.***

2: For members of the Church; that they may be strengthened in all the trials of life by the Bread that comes from God:

- (pause) - God of Mercy, hear us:

*all: **God of Mercy, hear us.***

3: That our community may draw closer to the Bread of Life through our sharing in this Eucharist: - (pause) - God of Hospitality, hear us:

*all: **God of Hospitality, hear us.***

4: That all may grow in awareness of God's gifts in the creation and our duty to use them wisely: - (pause) - God of Abundance, hear us:

*all: **God of Abundance, hear us.***

5: For the sick: we pray for:

*Mangawhai: **Matteo Gray, Petronella Brom, Lorna Boccock, Geraldine Choromanski, Judy Perry, Veronica Grigg, Margaret Rissman, Roselle & Owen McGrane, Richard Henry, Bob Walters, Colleen Griffith, Anne Griffith, Teresa McCarthy, Tom Ryan, Kathy Brokliss (Hokianga), Lee McCarthy, Emelia Brockliss, (Mexico)***

*Maungaturoto: **Trevor Brljevich, Tony Ruiterman, Bill Lewis, Beverly Simons, Adolph Layec,***

*Wellsford: **Dallas Colville, Alec Colville, Lucille Jenneker, Wilma Jansen, Gerard McCurran, Iris Barrow, Lagi Sands, Tim Emberson, Theresa Graham, Anne Nightingale, . . .***

Restore their health, that they may offer You joyful thanks in the midst of Your Church: - (pause) - God of Well-being, hear us:

*all: **God of Well-being, hear us.***

*6: For those who have died whose anniversaries occur about now: **Yvonne Hamilton, Ross Korewha, Len Yelas, Ester Karl,***

- (pause) - God of new Life, hear us:

*all: **God of New Life, hear us.***

Concluding Prayer:

leader: Father, You have sent Jesus among us as our Bread of Life, hear our prayers and sustain us today and every day of this coming week. We ask through Jesus Christ, our brother and Lord:

*all: **Amen***

(If no priest, the lay leader introduces Lord's Prayer.)

Prayer over the Gifts

*presider: (Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ...) Lord God,
in this wonderful exchange of gifts
accept the offerings You have given us,
that we in turn may receive the gift of Yourself.
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord:*

*all: **Amen***

Preface

presider: The Lord be with you.

*all: **And also with you.***

presider: Lift up your hearts.

*all: **We lift them up to the Lord.***

presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*all: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*Presider: It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
He is the true and eternal priest,
who founded this memorial of his unending sacrifice.
He gave himself to You as victim for our deliverance,
and commanded us to make this offering in his memory.
As we eat his body, given for us,
we grow in strength.
As we drink his blood, poured out for us,
we are washed clean.
And so, with angels and archangels,
with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim Your glory
and join their unending chorus of praise:*

*all: **Holy holy holy!***

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER – III

Memorial Acclamation

(the Eucharistic Prayer ends with the great 'AMEN')

Introduction to the Lord's Prayer

either

*presider: With trust in God, who nourishes us in the hour of need,
let us pray as Jesus taught us:*

or

Let us pray for the coming of God's realm as Jesus taught us.

or

The Father has forgiven us, let us forgive our neighbour from the heart as we say:

*all: **Our Father, . . .***

*presider: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil;
graciously grant peace in our days,
that by the help of Your mercy,
we may be always freed from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

*all: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours,
now and for ever. Amen.***

Sign of Peace

*presider: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles:
'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you'.
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church
and grant us the peace and unity of your Realm,
where you live, now and always:*

*all: **Amen.***

presider: The peace of the Lord be with you:

*all: **And with your spirit.***

presider: Let us offer each other a sign of peace:

Lamb of God

*all: **Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us (x2)
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.***

*presider: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
who by the will of the Father
and the work of the Holy Spirit,
through your death gave life to the world;
free us by this your most holy Body and Blood
from all our sins and from every evil:
keep us always faithful to your commandments
and never let us be parted from you.*

*all: **Amen***

either

*presider: Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who takes away the sins of
the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.*

or

*presider: This is the bread come down from heaven;
whoever eats this bread will never die.
This is the cup of eternal life;
whoever drinks of it will live forever:*

*all: **Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof,
but only say the Word and my soul shall be healed.***

Holy Communion

*presider: Ko te Tinana o te Karaiti:
(Ko nga Toto o te Karaiti:)*

Prayer after Communion

*presider: (Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ...) God of mercy,
through this holy eucharist
You make us one body in Christ.
Fashion us in His likeness here on Earth,
that we may be ready to share His company in heaven,
where He lives and reigns for ever and ever:*

*all: **Amen.***

(an opportunity for announcements/notices etc. . . .)

Dismissal

*leader: We are sent; in the name of God, our ever-loving Father;
we are sent in the name of Jesus, our Bread from Heaven;
we are sent in the name of the life-giving holy Spirit,
who never ceases to call us to new and more abundant life.
In wonder and gratitude
we join our voices with 'the choirs of heaven'
by proclaiming the power of God's love;
by our practical judgements that build communion and community
and make real our salvation in Christ, until we gather again.*

*all: **Amen***

The Blessing

*presider: Kia whakapaingia koutou e te Atua kaha rawa,
e te Matua, ✠ e te Tamaiti e te Wairua Tapu. /
May the blessing of God, the Father, ✠ the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with us now and always:*

*all: **Amene***

leader: The Mass has ended, go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

*all: **Thanks be to God.***

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