**8am Sunday 1st August JESUS AND THE BREAD**

**Acknowledgement of Country**

For thousands of years Indigenous people have walked on this land, in their own country.

Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives.

We acknowledge the Wallumattagal people of the Dharug/Eora group and their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. We pay respect to their elders, past, present and emerging.

**Call to worship**

We gather to worship. Let us remember - ‘The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God’s mercies never come to an end.’

**THE CROWD, SIGNS AND BREAD**

*CONTEXT* – The crowd had come from the miraculous ‘feeding of the five thousand’ and now they go looking for Jesus.

John 6: 24 – 35

24 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.

25 When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?”

26 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. 27 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.”

28 Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?”

29 Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

30 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? 31 Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

32 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. 33 For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

34 They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

35 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.

* The crowd asked for a sign so that they might believe.

**MUSIC** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8U_gR58eJU> ‘Lord give me a sign’. DMX

**DISCUSSION**

DMX asks ‘Lord give me a sign’. The crowd asked Jesus ‘What sign are you going to give us?’

When do we feel the need for a sign?

Any reflections?

**THE TEXT AND THE BREAD**

John’s gospel has some distinctive features.

* It is said to be the most spiritual of the gospels, and also the most material.
* In John we see the divine through the material
* Miracles are ‘signs’
* Seven ‘I am’ sayings
* One of the literary techniques used in John’s gospel is *misunderstanding*. The crowd and Jesus in this passage use the same words but with very different meanings.

**‘I am the bread of life’**

* What is the spiritual truth we see through the image of bread?
* Jesus said “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’
  + Jesus is more important than bread that is eaten.
  + The reference to manna is a reminder that manna satisfied hunger for a limited time, whereas Jesus satisfies spiritual needs forever.

**Spiritual bread and material bread**

* Jesus Christ is spiritual bread – what about material bread?
* Jesus said “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”
* So where does other ‘work’ fit in - anywhere? Is belief the only thing?
* Belief, faith, is a gift – a gift of God’s grace.
* Ephesians links faith, a gift of grace, with a *response* - the response of ‘good works’.

Ephesians 2:8-1 New Revised Standard Version

**8**For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— **9**not the result of works, so that no one may boast. **10**For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

* Many people in the world today are in poverty and lack physical bread.
* Oxfam says ‘Behind the food we buy are millions of people who grow, catch and process it, passing it along a supply chain until it ends up in our homes. But in a global food industry worth trillions of dollars, far too many of the women and men behind our food are being forced into lives of hardship and suffering, working long hours in inhumane conditions for little reward. …An increasingly small portion of the money we pay for our food actually reaches hard-working farmers, fishers and workers at the start of the chain – in many cases, less than 10%.’
* Quote from Barbara Brown Taylor: ‘An altar in the World; A Geography of Faith’.

“To make bread or love, to dig in the earth, to feed an animal or cook for a stranger – these activities require no extensive commentary, no lucid theology. All they require is someone willing to bend, reach, chop, stir. Most of these tasks are so full of pleasure that there is no need to complicate thing by calling them holy.

And yet these are the same activities that change lives, sometimes all at once and sometimes more slowly, the way dripping water changes stone.

In a world where faith is often construed as a way of thinking, bodily practices remind the willing that faith is a way of life.”

* Can people encounter Christ through the offering of bread?

**MUSIC** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hEZAXjyTPEw> ‘Take this bread’. The Felice Brothers

**DISCUSSION**

Reflections on my comments and/or the song?

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**BREAD FOR US**

**MUSIC** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=58U_jEkuyTY> ‘Feed us now Bread of Life’

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you

**And also with you.**

**THE INVITATION**

Jesus said: “When you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind.”

So each of us is welcome at this table; it doesn’t matter who we are

This is God’s meal, we are all invited.

**THE STORY OF THE LAST SUPPER**

On the night before he was nailed to the cross, Jesus shared a final meal with his friends.

Paul tells the story (1 Corinthians 11:23-26):

“I have already told you what the Lord did on the night he was betrayed. And it came from the Lord himself.

He took some bread in his hands. Then after he had given thanks, he broke it and said ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Eat this and remember me.’

And after the meal, Jesus took a cup of wine in his hands and said:

This is my blood, and with it God makes his new agreement with you.

Drink this and remember me.’

**THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

We thank you God for the splendour of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for Jesus Christ, who revealed how you want us to live and saved us from ourselves.

We thank you for the Holy Spirit, who guides and reconciles us to each other.

We praise you, our God.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**BLESSING THE BREAD AND WINE**

This ordinary bread came from wheat in a paddock and was made by human hands.

**Bless the work of our hands and make us hunger for a world where all are fed.**

This ordinary wine came from grapes in a vineyard and was made by human hands.

**Bless the work of our hands and make us thirsty for justice.**

Send now your Spirit on this bread and wine, so that they may become for us Christ’s Body and Blood.

**Send your Spirit on us so that we may become one with Christ and one with each other.**

**THE LORD’ S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

**THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

Look! The bread of heaven is broken for a broken world.

Look! The cup of life is poured out so that all may live.

**LAMB OF GOD**

Jesus, Lamb of God,

**Have mercy on us.**

Jesus, bearer of our sins,

**Have mercy on us.**

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

**grant us peace.**

**WE EAT THE BREAD AND DRINK THE JUICE**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**We thank you loving God that you have fed us through your word and through this sacrament. We thank you for Jesus, who is the true bread of heaven and the food of eternal life.**

**Send us out into the world now:**

**to tell the good news to the poor,**

**to announce freedom for prisoners,**

**to give sight to the blind,**

**to free everyone who suffers,**

**and to say “This is the year the Lord**

**has chosen.” (Luke 4. 18- 19)**

Amen.

**GOING OUT MUSIC** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Khf1_aURfc>

‘Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets’

**Lord Give Me a Sign**

[DMX](https://www.bing.com/search?q=DMX+rapper&filters=ufn%3a%22DMX+rapper%22+sid%3a%228dc0d328-c50d-4419-79c4-41375dbe6e81%22&FORM=SNAPST)

Yeah, uh  
In the name of Jesus (Spread the word!)  
"No weapon formed against me shall prosper" (Preach!)  
"And every tongue that rises against me in judgment, thou shall condemn" (Preach!)  
(Lord give me a sign!) "For this is the heritage of the servants of the Lord"  
(Preach!) "And their righteousness is of me," said the Lord (Preach!)  
Amen, uh  
Lord give me a sign!

I really need talk to you Lord  
Since the last time we talked, the walk has been hard  
Now I know you haven't left me, but I feel like I'm alone  
I'ma big boy now, but I'm still not grown  
And I'm still goin' through it (What!), pain and the hurt (Yeah!)  
Soakin' up trouble like, rain in the dirt (Yeah!)  
And I know, only I can stop the rain  
With just the mention of my savior's name, in the name of Jesus

Devil I rebuke you, for what I go through  
Been tryna make me do, what I used to (What!)  
But all that stops right here (Yeah!)  
As long as the Lord's in my life, I will have no fear  
I will know no pain, from the light to the dark (Come on!)  
I will no show no shame, spit it right from the heart (Come on!)  
'Cause it's right from the start, you held me down  
And ain't, nothin' they can tell me now  
Lord give me a sign!

Let me know what's on yo' mind  
Let me know what I'm gon' find  
It's all in time, show me how to teach the mind  
Show me how to reach the blind, Lord give me a sign!  
Show me what I gots to do, to bring me closer to you  
As I'ma go through, whatever you want me to  
Just let me know what to do, Lord give me a sign!

Please, show me some'n (Some'n)  
I'm tired talkin' to him, knowin' he frontin' (Frontin')  
Cryin' 'bout, "Life ain't nothin'" (Nothin')  
But you either be the one mad 'cause you trapped, or the one huntin' (Come on!)  
Trapped in yo' own mind, waitin' on the Lord (Yeah!)  
Or huntin' with the word that, cuts like a sword  
The spoken word is stronger than, the strongest man  
Carries the whole world like the strongest hand  
Through the trials and tribulations, you never let us down

(Jesus!) I know you're here with us now  
(Jesus!) I know you're still with us now  
Keep it real with us now, I wanna feel show me how  
(Please!) Let me take yo' hand, guide me (What!)  
I'll walk slow but stay right beside me  
(Please!) Devil's tryna find me (Please)  
Hide me, Hold up, I take that back  
Protect me and give me the strength to fight back! (Lord give me a sign!)

Let me know what's on yo' mind  
Let me know what I'm gon' find  
It's all in time, show me how to teach the mind  
Show me how to reach the blind, Lord give me a sign!  
Show me what I gots to do, to bring me closer to you  
As I'ma go through, whatever you want me to  
Just let me know what to do, Lord give me a sign!

Life or death, live or die (Uh)  
I will never live a lie (Uh)  
I'm gon' get because I try (What!)  
I won't quit until I die (What!)  
I'm gon' make it, wrong or right (Yeah!)  
And make it through the darkest time (Yeah!)  
And when the morning comes, you'll see  
That all I have is God in me (Lord give me a sign!)

"No weapon formed against me shall prosper"  
Please! Lord give me a sign!  
"For this is the heritage of the servants of the Lord"  
In the name of Jesus  
Lord give me a sign!

Let me know what's on yo' mind  
Let me know what I'm gon' find  
It's all in time, show me how to teach the mind  
Show me how to reach the blind, Lord give me a sign!  
Show me what I gots to do, to bring me closer to you  
As I'ma go through, whatever you want me to  
Just let me know what to do, Lord give me a sign!

Songwriters: Scott Storch, Earl Simmons

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**Take This Bread**

[The Felice Brothers](https://www.bing.com/search?q=The+Felice+Brothers&filters=ufn%3a%22The+Felice+Brothers%22+sid%3a%22cd774803-1b09-76ed-983d-d7f11a2e3405%22&FORM=SNAPST)

Take this bread, if you need a friend  
'Cause I'm alright if you're alright  
I ain't got a lot, but all I got  
You're welcome to it  
'Cause I'm alright if you're alright

My neighbor Odetta  
Came over to see if I was feeling better  
Every morning at 8 through the backyard gate  
And of all the pretty things she would bring  
There was nothing like that song she sang  
That could ease my sorry state  
She'd sing to me:

Take this bread, if you need a friend  
'Cause I'm alright, if you're alright  
I ain't got a lot, but all I got  
You're welcome to it  
'Cause I'm alright if you're alright

Sha na na na na na  
Lalalalalala la

Whoa! Take this bread.  
Sure thing, If I got bread you got bread  
And everybody in my company has got bread  
[You look a little hungry  
I ain't even that hungry, that's how I look at it  
Butter side up, butter side down  
Doesn't matter to me  
If you got a slice, that's nice.

I went for a walk, headlights in the dark  
The man was dying in a pick-up truck  
He took her from the wall, my parking lot  
And killed her by the river  
But the cops caught him in the guns

And I said to him.]  
Take this bread, if you need a friend  
'Cause I'm alright, if you're alright  
I ain't got a lot, but all I got  
You're welcome to it  
'Cause I'm alright if you're alright

Take this bread, if you need a friend  
'Cause I'm alright if you're alright  
I ain't got a lot, but all I got  
You're welcome to it  
'Cause I'm alright if you're alright  
I'm alright if you're alright

Songwriters: Ian Felice, Gregory Farley, Josh Rawson, James Felice, Simone E Felice

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