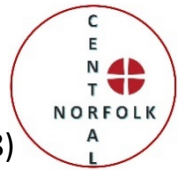


**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2024:** Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

*For use by the Central Norfolk Circuit at 10.30 am or some other suitable time.*



**StF 364 H&P 744 'O for a thousand tongues to sing'** by Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)

### Opening Prayer

Think of the past week and say both 'thank you' and 'sorry' to our loving God.

**StF 66 MP 666 'The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases'** by Edith McNeil

*The words of this song are based on the words of Lamentation 3 v 22 – 23*

**Gospel Reading set for today:** John 6 v 56 – 69

### To think about

You may like to read John Chapter 6 in its entirety (we have been reading sections during the last few weeks) and let today's passage take its place in the whole.

**MP 790 'You are the King of glory'** by Mavis Ford © 1978 CopyCare

You are the King of glory / You are the Prince of peace / You are the Lord of heaven and earth,  
You're the Son of righteousness. Angels bow down before You / worship and adore,  
For You have the words of eternal life / You are Jesus Christ the Lord. Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Hosanna to the King of kings! Glory in the highest heaven / for Jesus the Messiah reigns!

### Message from a Circuit Friend

Jesus came to earth, not so that we can fix him here, or so that we can take him out like some good luck charm when we're in a tight spot. No, he came to tell us about God his Father and draw us into his compassion, his empathy and his teaching, which were for all. There is always more about God, more perhaps than we will ever comprehend. At the beginning of Mark chapter 6, Jesus had fed the 5000, giving them the physical substance of bread. It was clear from their subsequent conversations with Jesus that they were expecting more miracles of the same kind. They were fixed on the here and now and didn't recognise that Jesus was pointing to much, much more. Jesus continues his teaching and in verse 48 he tells them 'I am the bread of life', a bread that will sustain them beyond the physical into the more of God. If we lose that sense that there is more to God than we can ever know, our imaginations can shrink and we find ourselves settling for 'this is how it is'. Jesus continues and speaks about eating his flesh and blood which was just too much for his listeners. What was he saying, a Jew? He knows that we are forbidden blood (Lev 17.) He knew they were grumbling about his words, but he wasn't talking about some peculiar ritual, but about partaking in his nature, drawing it into us. When we extend our hand to receive the bread and wine at communion, we are saying yes, we need you. We need to expand our limited perspectives and you, Jesus, are the way. You, Jesus, are the 'more' of God. As the followers drifted away Jesus turned to the twelve and asked them if they were leaving him too. Peter, understanding that Jesus is inviting them into a deeper understanding of God asks, 'Lord, to whom shall we turn. You have the words of eternal life'. In other words, Jesus is the only one who can lead us into a greater understanding of God. May we to be immersed in Jesus, the 'more' of God, and open our eyes, hearts and minds to new vistas of possibilities.

**Avril Temple (Local Preacher and member of Sculthorpe and Fakenham Methodist Church)**

**Epistle Reading set for today:** Ephesians 6 v 10 – 20

### Prayers of Intercession

We pray for our world... for the church... for our communities... for our families & friends...

**Offer to God your offertory for the week, and say the Lord's Prayer...**

**StF 634 H&P 710 'Fight the good fight with all your might'** by John Monsell (1811 – 1875)

**May the blessing of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us, and all those we love, this day and always, Amen.**

**Circuit News:** All are welcome to attend. The Welcome Service for our new Superintendent, Rev Derek Grimshaw, is on 1<sup>st</sup> September at Trinity Methodist Church, Dereham at 6 pm. Pray for all ministers beginning new appointments on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

This is my last Worship Sheet after producing 230. I have enjoyed doing every one! Blessings to all readers/worshippers, Jacqui