

## 4. Prayers: Bread of Life

### Approach

God, our hope,  
As we gather now to worship you, fill us with anticipation and prepare us by your Spirit. Be the first thought in our hearts and help us to be conscious of your direction.  
Strengthen us for service,  
Nourish us with the bread of life,  
Transform us for mission.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we ask this.  
**Amen.**

### Approach

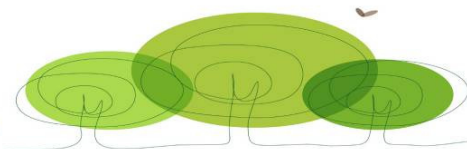
Jesus is the Bread of Heaven for eternal life.  
In this time of worship, may we find his sustenance and strength, and by the leading of the Holy Spirit, may we come ready to receive from Father God. Let our hearts and minds resolve to offer him thanks and praise.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**  
(John 6:41)

### Approach

As we prepare for worship,  
Let us come honestly before Almighty God and acknowledge our shortcomings and the ways we have compromised our faith.  
Let us return to the Source of All Being, that we might draw strength and encouragement.  
May the springs of living water well up within us to cleanse and renew us.  
May the rivers of righteousness flow out from us to bring healing to the whole creation.  
In the name of Christ we ask this.  
**Amen.**

### Confession

Dear Lord Jesus,  
We know that this week we have preferred to stay with the questions rather than to look for solutions in the global provision of food and resources. Forgive us that we have kept what we have to ourselves rather than offering it up to you for your blessing so that you might feed and sustain others. Forgive us that we have forgotten to gather up the pieces and have failed to be concerned about the waste that our society produces. Be for us here the Bread of Heaven, and feed and renew us so that we might share in your purpose in giving life to the world.  
**Amen.**



## Petition

On the web, in the supermarket, shop or store,  
Help me, Lord, to choose with you more.

Faced with over-packaging that simply goes to waste,  
Help me, Lord, to choose with you more.

Calculating food miles, delivered door to door,  
Help me, Lord, to choose with you more.

Fairtrade, convenience, cut price or organic,  
Help me, Lord, to choose with you more.

Seeking conscientiousness, in all I'm shopping for,  
Help me, Lord, to choose with you more.

## Proclamation

This day, may we hear the Word of the Lord,  
This day, may we stop doing wrong and learn to do right,  
This day, may we seek justice and help the oppressed,  
This day, may we defend the cause and plead for those in need.  
This day, may we choose to serve the Living Lord. **Amen.**  
(Isaiah 1:17)

## Collect

Through the prophet Hosea, God promised a new covenant with the land and all creatures – a covenant of neighbourliness, justice, love, compassion and faithfulness. May the Lord Jesus seek to use us to lead the way to a new kingdom and to bring healing to the whole of creation. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Intercession

Gracious Lord, move us, your people,  
to experience your love more deeply.  
Fill us with the energy that comes from a desire for service.  
Connect us with creation to care for your world.  
Engage us in the scriptures and increase our knowledge of you.  
*Raise up your power and come among us.*  
**May your bountiful grace and mercy equip us.**

Help us, your people, to be deeply rooted in our local communities.



Help us to make connections between faith and daily living.  
Help us to be passionate and prophetic about justice and peace.  
Help us to respond to human need by loving service.

*Raise up your power and come among us.*

**May your bountiful grace and mercy equip us.**

Encourage us, your people, both to embrace the past and to dare the new.  
Guide us to take risks and to learn from different experiences.  
Motivate us to invest our lives in others as Jesus did.  
Grant us intimacy with yourself and involvement with others.

*Raise up your power and come among us.*

**May your bountiful grace and mercy equip us.**

## **Meditation**

### **A prayer to the Sower**

Sow the seeds of your Word in our hearts, Lord,  
Germinate them in the choicest of ground.  
Don't let them be snatched away in hard times, Lord,  
When first passions fade and leave us cold.

Grow the seeds of your Word in our lives, Lord,  
Where weeds cannot strangle and choke,  
Develop them in the best of all soils, Lord,  
Not overwhelmed by worry or by stress.

Show your Word's harvest in your Church, Lord,  
In a community vibrant and strong,  
Produce of our best endeavours, Lord,  
A harvest sixty or a hundred fold.

(Mark 4:1–20)

## **Thanksgiving**

(2 Corinthians 9:10-11)

The Lord Jesus took bread and fish and shared them with the multitudes, giving them sustenance and meeting their needs.

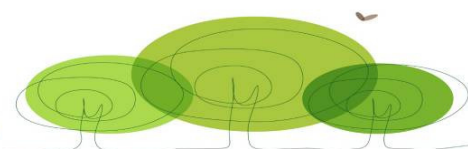
May the Lord's grace abound to us according to our need.

**And may we abound in praise and in every good work.**

The Lord Jesus said, 'I am the living bread come down from heaven,' showing us the way of self-sacrifice and generosity.

May the Lord's grace abound to us according to our need.

**And may we abound in praise and in every good work.**



The Lord Jesus took bread and wine and shared them among the disciples, revealing the future signs of his glory.

May the Lord's grace abound to us according to our need.

**And may we abound in praise and in every good work.**

The Lord Jesus ate and drank after he had risen from the dead, opening the way to the kingdom of heaven so that we might know his power and glory.

May the Lord's grace abound to us according to our need.

**And may we abound in praise and in every good work.**

### **Blessing**

May the Great Gardener landscape your designs,

May the Living Water drip-feed your tender crops,

May the Gentle Raindrops sprinkle your upturned leaves,

May the Calming Channels irrigate your drying soil,

May the Mains of Grace supply your needs and meet your thirst,

And may the God of All bless you and yours with an abundant harvest.

**Amen.**

