



A better life - brokenness

Blessed are the
poor in spirit

Matthew 5: 1 - 3



Bowthorpe
Church

Welcome and notices

- See Mark's June letter
- Daily morning and evening prayer resumes this week
- Taizé resumes on Fridays at 7.00 pm
- Contact Sally about both the above
- 8th June 10.00 am, Oaks Review Group
- 9th June 10.30 am Wednesday communion resumes
- 10th June TOTS are back!
- Next Sunday: Mark will be leading and preaching

Call to worship

In my desperation I prayed, and the LORD
listened;

He saved me from all my troubles.

For the angel of the LORD is a guard;

he surrounds and defends all who fear him.

Taste and see that the LORD is good.



Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in
him!

Fear the LORD, you his godly people,
for those who fear him will have all they
need.

Even strong young lions sometimes go
hungry,



but those who trust in the LORD will lack
no good thing.

(Psalm 34: 6-10)



GRATEFUL THANKFUL

blessed



Blessed be the name of the Lord



Bowthorpe
Church

Opening prayer

Blessed Lord, we are gathered here today before your throne of grace.

We know we are so unworthy of the good things you've given us but, by the grace of Jesus, we have received these things and become glorified



forever in Jesus' name. O God, we come to you for the forgiveness and sanctification of our hearts that only you can offer. As we continue with our service, let your presence overshadow us and let blessings all round be our portion. **Amen.**



Confession

Holy God, hear our prayer:

**For the mending of our hearts, torn
apart by our unkindness;**

**For the healing of our souls wasting
away from the despair around us;**

**For the forgiveness we seek for the sin
we have allowed to persist;**



For the reconciliation of the world, whose divisions condemn us.

We pray for the courage to admit our faults,

The strength to amend our actions,

And the hope that your grace awaits us.

Through Jesus Christ we pray, Amen



Assurance of pardon

God is slow to anger and full of compassion. He forgives all who humbly repent and trust in his Son as Saviour and Lord.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Amen.



Offertory prayer

For the blessings of this and all our days, we thank you, gracious God. Accept, we pray, not just this money but also our lives freely offered in gratitude for all you have done for us. Use them both, in this place and wherever you might take us. **Amen.**



Poor in spirit



Matthew 5: 1 - 3

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'



Psalm 51: 17

My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart you, God,
will not despise.



This is the word of Lord
Thanks be to God



A person stands on a highly reflective surface, likely a salt flat, during a sunset or sunrise. The sky is a mix of soft pinks, oranges, and blues. In the distance, a range of mountains is visible, their peaks also reflecting in the water. The person's reflection is clearly visible in the still water.

REFLECTION:

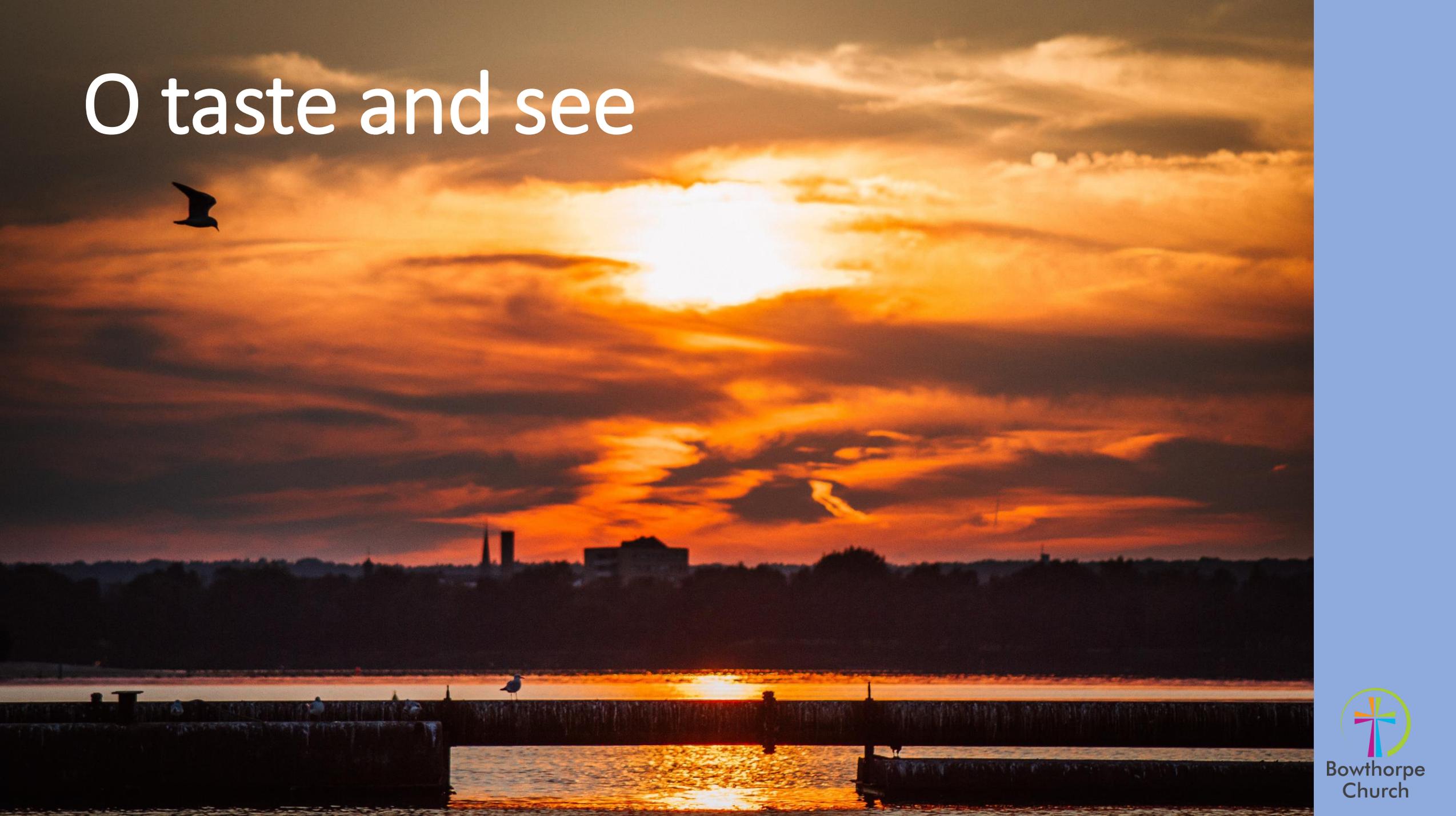
A BETTER LIFE (I)

BROKENNESS



**Bowthorpe
Church**

O taste and see



Bowthorpe
Church

Prayer of intercession

Gracious God, take from us any anxiety we might face as this day, with all its baggage, opens the door and enters in.

May we see opportunities that yesterday were missed, blessings in the little things we might normally walk past;



time enough to set aside a space to
read your Word, say a prayer, sing a
song, strengthen faith and know
you're there, always there,
whatever this new day might bring.



You have work for us to do today, Lord.
Getting hands dirty kind of work. Being
there when needed, ready to get stuck
in kind of work.

Being your hands comforting, healing,
embracing but also exposing injustice
and wrong.

Being your feet, walking alongside the marginalised, the struggling and the weak. Being your voice encouraging those who stumble in the dark to reach out and embrace the light. You have work for us to do, Lord. Grant us strength and wisdom.



Bless all who work in stressful situations; healthcare, teaching, law enforcement, social services and other occupations where patience, love and perseverance can wear thin and daily stress levels rise. Keep them safe and keep them well, equipped to follow



their vocation through the most difficult of times. And at the end of their day, Lord, grant rest.



Loving God, what we desire is this; that people see not us, but through our smile, greeting, helping hand or helpful word, your love reach out and touch, maybe at a time of need. Keep us focussed through this day on being your servants in this place,



or wherever you might take us, and may your name be glorified. And in our darker moments, when clouds gather and the heaviness we feel seems overwhelming, remind us of your love, carrying the weight of so much in that cross, embracing the world



with arms outstretched that we might know freedom from the chains which now constrain us. Bring us to your light, release our burdens and from despair bring hope.



In togetherness and isolation, may
your love be the thread that connects
us.

All these things we pray in the name
of Jesus, Our Lord, our Saviour and
our Friend. **Amen.**



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.**

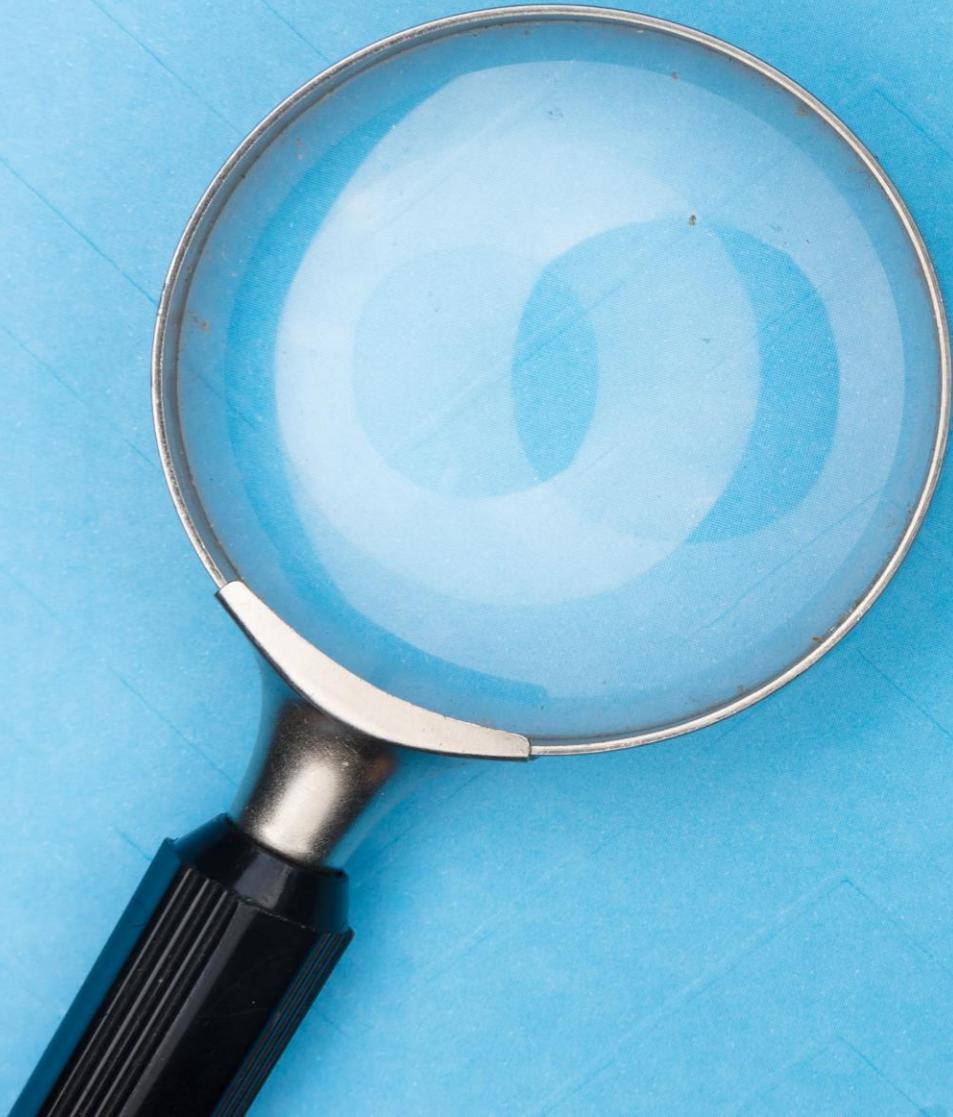
**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

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

Amen.



Seek ye first the kingdom of God



Bowthorpe
Church

Closing prayer and blessing

Let us go forth into the world in peace
and dedicated to your service, Lord.

Let us hold fast to that which is good,
render to no person evil for evil,
strengthen the faint-hearted, support
the weak, help the needy



and the afflicted, and honour all people.
Let us love and serve the Lord, rejoicing
in the power of His Spirit. And may
God's grace be upon us and remain with
us always. **Amen.**



And now may the blessing of God
Almighty, Father Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us and all those we love, all
those we care for, and all those we
pray for, this day and ever more,
Amen.



Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.



Bowthorpe
Church