



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Let us sit and watch Songs of Praise together on the ABC and then set the table for our Parish meal.



- **Setting our table for our Sunday lunch service.**

Sometimes we eat, in front of the TV either together or alone; we eat on the run; we eat out in restaurants or even in our car; but today we sit at a table that we have set for our Sunday lunch meal. It is our everyday altar of life-giving food.

As we celebrate this Easter Season let us define the occasion by naming things on our table that bring us joy and which we can share with others in our community.

- **Prayerful and intentional preparation for a meal**

Let us set our meal for this day. And give some thought to the presentation of our meal as a meditation on the importance of the time we are setting aside for worship.

Making it pleasing to our eye.



On the Road to Emmaus

In this time of social distancing, we still bump into people we don't know, on the phone, in the shops or the posty and we can make all these a blessing. **"Never speak to strangers!"** Remember your parents telling you that. Yet had Cleopas and his friend followed this advice, they would have never had the encounter with Jesus. This "stranger" got them to open their hearts to their fears and worries. This "stranger" who asked, **"what are you talking about"** was indeed Jesus. Be aware but not afraid of strangers, for that chance meeting changed their lives. Cleopas and his friend met Jesus in the person of a stranger. Who might you meet today?

- **opening prayer — consciously drawing together in our mind our Parish community around our table.**
- Be still and silent.
Visualise in your mind, those whom you invited to share with you.
Pray:



**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Here, and throughout the world,
We adore you O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen
Bless this food, both physical and spiritual.
Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen,
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

- **Let us read and reflect on our cycle of readings**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles,
Chapter 2 beginning at Verse 14a**

14a But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, 36 "Therefore, let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." 37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" 38 Peter



said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." 40 And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41 So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. [NRSV Acts 2:14a, 36-41]



Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God

Psalm 116:1-4, 11-18

1 I love the Lord, because he heard my voice:
the voice of my supplication;

2 Because he inclined his ear to me:
in the day that I called to him.

3 The cords of death encompassed me,
the snares of the grave took hold on me:
I was in anguish and sorrow.

4 Then I called upon the name of the Lord:
'O Lord, I beseech you, deliver me!'

11 How shall I repay the Lord:
for all his benefits to me?

12 I will take up the cup of salvation:
and call upon the name of the Lord.

13 I will pay my vows to the Lord:
in the presence of all his people.

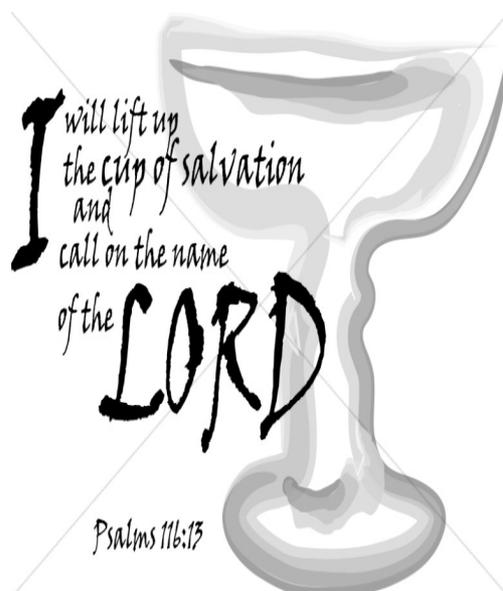
14 Grievous in the sight of the Lord:
is the death of his faithful ones.

15 O Lord, I am your servant,
your servant and the child of your handmaid:
you have unloosed my bonds.

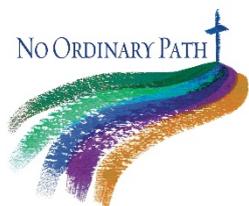
16 I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving:
and call upon the name of the Lord.

17 I will pay my vows to the Lord:
in the presence of all his people,

18 In the courts of the house of the Lord:
even in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.



A reading from the First letter of Peter, Chapter 1 beginning at Verse 13



¹³Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. ¹⁴Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. ¹⁵Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; ¹⁶for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." ¹⁷If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the

foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. ²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures forever.” [NRSV 1 Peter 1:13-25]

Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God.

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke,
Chapter 24 beginning at verse 13**

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these



On the Road to Emmaus



days?” ¹⁹ He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they

had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” ²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.



[NRSV Luke 24:13-35]

This is the Gospel of the Lord, ***praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

• **eating reflectively and responding to the passage**

Let us now begin some quiet reflection, or conversation and sharing, responding to the Gospel passage. We may like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection. The Lord appears in all types. But while we see those who are different as strangers, we see in today's Gospel that we should see them as companions on the way. When we reach out to a stranger we reach out to God and all types of blessings may unfold. **Who might you meet today?**



• **prayer-time**

Let's now offer our prayer for healing of the world; for those affected by coronavirus; for family; for members of the parish and wider community, for the life and ministry of the Church, for encouragement in our journey of faith.



Please pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer ; Ron & Ann ; Les ; Tristan; Kathy; Mitchell; David ; Pat ; Izabelle ; Peta ; Mariette; Joanne; Peter G, Peter C; Nicholas B; Samantha & Noah; Fiona; Brenton; Sue; Brenda; Pat; Brendon, Fr Peter, Fr Percy & Betty, Bp David, Jill, Bill, David H, Petra, Miriam & family, Marjorie; Joyce; Diane; Jean; Mitchell and family; Kathy; Carolyn; Allison; Angela; Susie; Carol; Lucy Ann; Margaret; Lyn; Ted & Joyce ; Irene; Linda; Jenny P's mother; Tina; Wendy; Chris; Trevor; Liz; Trish; Carole and family, and any others we wish to say either silently or aloud.

Lord God, help us this day to remember the sacrifice of the first ANZACs, and the generations of men, women and children who have died in the cause of liberty and peace. We pray for all members of the Australian Armed Forces both current and retired and for their families. Amen.



Prayer of the Day

O God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of the bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Conclude the meal with the following prayer together.



***May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be amongst us and remain with us always.
Amen.***

***Christ is Risen! Alleluia!
He is Risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia***

• **intentional connection beyond your home** After our Table Service, make contact via phone, email, letter, Messenger, Skype, Zoom, etc with a person who is on your heart and mind at this time. It might be one of the people you invited to your meal, or a member of your family, or someone who doesn't have family, or a friend, Let God guide you to the person or people with whom you connect. Contact the person. Start a conversation: 'I was thinking of you.....' Or What did you think of..... in songs of praise etc.

