

SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

FOURTH 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.

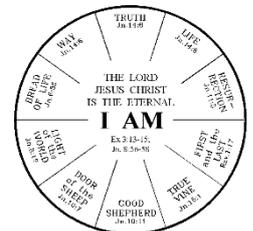
As we celebrate this Easter Season let us define the occasion by naming things on our table that bring us joy and which we can share with others in our community.

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



Let us set our meal for this day. Give some thought to the presentation of our meal as a meditation on the importance of the time we are setting aside for worship. Maybe add something from around the house that helps us reflect on Jesus as our shepherd.

The Sunday school teacher asked the children, **“What does the shepherd do for the sheep?”** Little Johnny raised his hand and said, **“He fleeces them.”** Yes, shepherds do fleece and feed on their sheep here in the 21st century as well as care for their flocks. But when the Bible speaks of God’s people as shepherds emulating Jesus, it imagines leaders who feed, protect, guide and live with the people as a good shepherd of old did for his flock. Jesus the good shepherd reveals why he came. His function as a shepherd was as he said **“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”** What are the lifegiving gifts that your shepherd Jesus leads you into?



- **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 42*

**Faithful Life in
the Community
of the Spirit**

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and

goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. [NRSV Acts 2:42-57]

Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God

Psalm 23

1 *The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore, can I lack nothing.*

2 *He will make me lie down in green pastures:
and lead me beside still waters.*

3 *He will refresh my soul:
and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.*

4 *Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:*

for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me.

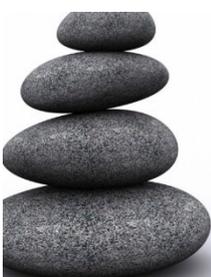
5 *You spread a table before me
in the face of those who trouble me:
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup shall be full.*

6 *Surely your goodness and loving-kindness
will follow me all the days of my life:
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*



A reading from the first letter of Peter, Chapter 2 beginning at Verse 1

¹ Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. ² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation - ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴ Come to him, a living



As you come to Him,
THE LIVING STONE
rejected by humans
BUT CHOSEN BY GOD
AND PRECIOUS TO HIM
1 PETER 2:4

stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." ⁷ To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the

builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," ⁸ and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. [NRSV 1 Peter 2:1-10]

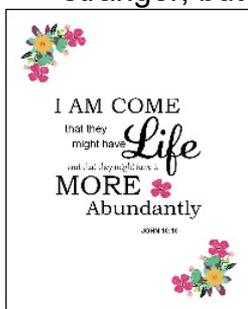
Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, Chapter 10 beginning at verse 1

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a

stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.”⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.



⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

[NRSV John 10:1-10]

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Let us now engage in some quiet reflection, or conversation and sharing, responding to the Gospel passage. We may like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.



We see in this parable that the people do not understand, Jesus’ metaphors using images of sheep and shepherd, gatekeeper and gate. And by contrast he also uses words like thief, bandit, stranger, killing and destroying. Jesus had to explain his metaphor to the people of his day so to us, here in the 21st century, need to explore what it means, to walk through the open gate provided by the voice of our shepherd Jesus. Let us pray for the Lord to help us to hear his voice, so that we may open the gate and follow him. What is it, or who is it that prevents you from listening to and following the Lord? Find a quiet place to pray and reflect on the Lord your shepherd.

• ***prayer-time***

- Let’s now offer our prayers 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.



We give thanks for the life, work and witness of Jan Keay wife of Fr David Keay. Please pray for the soul of Jan and also for Fr David and the rest of their family during this time.

We remember especial those members of the Police Force killed during the past week; Detective Chief Superintendent Joanne Shanahan who was killed in a 3 car crash in Adelaide South East last Saturday; Constable Glen Humphris and Constable Josh Prestney Leading Senior Constable Lynette Taylor and Senior Constable Kevin

King killed in a crash on Melbourne Eastern Freeway. We remember Tania McNeill, also killed in the 3 car-crash that took the life of Joanne Shanahan.

May they all Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory. Amen

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; Lyn; Ted & Joyce ; Irene; Linda; Jenny P’s mother; Tina; Wendy; Chris; Trevor; Liz; Trish; Carole and family, Peter, Lainie, Nicholas and family, and any others we wish to say either silently or aloud.



Let us say the Lord's Prayer Together. Our Father

Prayer of the Day

God of all power,
you called from death our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep:
send us as shepherds to rescue the lost,
to heal the injured,
and to feed one another with understanding;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives 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