



## SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

Pentecost 7 19<sup>th</sup> July 2020

*watch Songs of Praise together on the ABC  
and then set the table for our shared 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 together let us define the occasion by adding 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.



If you plant a garden, watch the plants grow, the flowers bloom and the vegies develop. You know it just did not 'happen'. Yes, the plants grew, but every day, you weeded, watered, fertilised, pruned and tendered to the plants. In the end you have a beautiful exhibit of flowers or a good crop of vegies. Jesus said the crop of wheat is his good seed, he ploughed, planted watered and perhaps even used Super Phosphate. And only the angels were worried about the weeds growing in the crop. We live because of God's good husbandry and we grow knowing his care in

our lives. God is not worried about the weeds that have been sown. He knows his wheat will remain good. Likewise we trust in God not being bothered about those who choose to grow in God's paddock but are unfaithful. Without thinking about to the weeds, what is it in our souls that shows the angels we are Gods good wheat?



***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*



1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me:  
you know when I sit or when I stand,  
you comprehend my thoughts long before.

2 You discern my path and the places where I rest:  
you are acquainted with all my ways.

3 For there is not a word on my tongue:  
but you, Lord, know it altogether.

4 You have encompassed me behind and before:  
and have laid your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me:  
so high that I cannot endure it.

6 Where shall I go from your spirit:  
or where shall I flee from your presence?

7 If I ascend into heaven you are there:  
if I make my bed in the grave you are there also.

8 If I spread out my wings towards the morning:  
or dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

9 Even there your hand shall lead me:  
and your right hand shall hold me.

10 If I say 'Surely the darkness will cover me:  
and the night will enclose me',

11 The darkness is no darkness with you,  
but the night is as clear as the day:  
the darkness and the light are both alike.

23 Search me out, O God, and know my heart:  
put me to the proof and know my thoughts.

24 Look well lest there be any way of wickedness in me:  
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

God...  
knows us,  
is with us,  
made us,  
hears us,  
leads us.

*Psalm 139*

A reading from the Romans, Chapter 8 beginning at Verse 12

12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh - 13 for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ - if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; 20 for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; 23 and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

[NRSV Romans 8:12-25]

Hear the word of the Lord,

**thanks be to God.**



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

### Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

24 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. 27 And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' 28 He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' 29 But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. 30 Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"



36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." 37 He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; 38 the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40 Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, 42 and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

[NRSV Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43]

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



### Sentence

You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

### • *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.

Words to consider – seeds and Kingdom of Heaven



This parable about what the Kingdom of Heaven is like is not about looking down on others and saying we are good and you are bad. It is about growing in a paddock, or rather our faith growing as God tends to us. Have you thought about how God works in your soul. What kind of Gardening has he done lately, has it hurt or do you feel especially blessed or have you discovered new meaning in the scriptures. God is always tending to us



### • *prayer-time*

Now let us continue to 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.



**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; 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; Shirley; Lucy Ann; Margaret, Lyn; Ted & Joyce ; Irene; Linda; Jenny P's mother; Tina; Wendy; Chris; Trevor; Liz; Trish S; Carole and family, Peter (husband of the late Joanne) & children Lainie and Nicholas; John Carroll, Jac Bishop; Joan; Andrew; Joanie; Mary, Margaret's mum, we give thanks for the ongoing recovery of Fr Peter and the success of Carols operation. *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**

Father God, I have to be real and say  
Sometimes I feel so distant from you  
Sometimes you seem so distant from me.  
Everything I know about you is wonderful  
I want to know the wonder of your love,  
To know you grace and peace and joy.  
But I get tired trying to make that happen.  
Please Lord take over my feeble attempts,  
Wander through the arbour of my heart  
Be my Master Gardener  
Tending to my overgrowth and entanglements.  
forming me into the shape you designed for me  
Making me a beautiful exhibit by your hand.  
May others see what you have created  
and know this is a piece of heaven on earth.  
You in me, making me into the likeness of you.  
I want this kind of closeness. 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.***

**• 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