



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE
Pentecost 8, 26th 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.



The Kingdom of Heaven is like.



When we plant a seed, we do not expect the seed to grow into a bigger seed. It transforms into a plant. A minute mustard seed turns into a tree. In Matthew Jesus also talks about a mustard seed as faith. So if we plant a seed of faith what do you think will grow from that? Again in Matthew, Jesus says we get a tree out of a seed that can house birds in its branches. Paul says in Ephesians that Faith is a gift from God. This is all about God's kingdom here on earth. Our faith, both personally and as God's church becomes like a tree that brings safety and security for others. What is it in your faithful life to God that is a strength for others?

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***





Psalm 105 v 1-11

- 1 O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name:
tell among the peoples what things he has done.
- 2 Sing to him, O sing praises:
and be telling of all his marvellous works.
- 3 Exult in his holy name:
and let those that seek the Lord be joyful in heart.
- 4 Seek the Lord and his strength:
O seek his face continually.
- 5 Call to mind what wonders he has done:
his marvellous acts, and the judgements of his mouth,
- 6 O seed of Abraham his servant:
O children of Jacob his chosen one.
- 7 For he is the Lord our God:
and his judgements are in all the earth.
- 8 He has remembered his covenant for ever:
the word that he ordained for a thousand generations,
- 9 The covenant that he made with Abraham:
the oath that he swore to Isaac,
- 10 And confirmed it to Jacob as a statute:
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,
- 11 Saying 'I will give you the land of Canaan:
to be the portion of your inheritance',

A reading from the Romans, Chapter 8 beginning at Verse 26

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. 27 And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. 31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? 33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."



[NRSV Romans 8:26-39]

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

47 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; 48 when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50 and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

51 “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” 52 And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.” 53 When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place.

54 He came to his hometown and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? 55 Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? 56 And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?” 57 And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor except in their own country and in their own house.” 58 And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.

[NRSV Matthew 13:44-58]

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Sentence

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- ***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.

Reflect on this, God’s Kingdom and us as yeast.

There are four other stories about what God’s kingdom is like. The treasure and the pearl speak about us discovering how wonderful it is to be a part of God’s Kingdom. So much so, worldly possessions are insignificant. You could say we are sold out for Jesus. The story of the yeast is about how important it is for us to bring God’s presence into the world. As the yeast makes the dough rise so we make the difference in our world. The story of the net is about God gathering us all up, those who have lived for God’s kingdom will enter into His glory and His Heavenly glory is beyond explanation. What difference can we make as God’s church in our community so that they know we are a citizens of God’s Kingdom?

• **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; Joanie: Andrew; Kerrie; Jill Ribbons ; 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

O God, the fount of wisdom,
you have revealed to us in Christ
the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price:
grant us your Spirit's gift of discernment,
that, in the midst of the things of this world,
we may learn to value the priceless worth of your kingdom,
and be ready to renounce all else
for the sake of the precious gift you offer.
We ask this through 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.***

• **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