



## SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

13<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Let us 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.



This is a parable about what salvation means; we pray in the Lord's Prayer, forgive us our debts and we forgive our debtors. A servant has been amazingly absolved from an incredible debt he owed. Even then he could not forgive someone of such a small debt. This Parable is about us, we are all like the servant who owed so much and our King has forgiven the debt. Psalms 103

describes this King. This mean man's penalty would have condemned his whole family who would have all suffered v25. It is a reminder to us not to take the grace God gives us for granted. If we choose to be ungracious to others the whole church suffers. In v31 it says his fellow servants were greatly distressed. Paul reminds the church whether we live or die we are the Lord's and all we do, we do knowing we are accountable to God.

**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 Book of Exodus, Chapter 14 beginning at Verse 19**

<sup>19</sup>The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. <sup>20</sup>It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. <sup>21</sup>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. <sup>22</sup>The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their



right and on their left. <sup>23</sup>The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. <sup>24</sup>At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. <sup>25</sup>He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the

Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt." <sup>26</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." <sup>27</sup>So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. <sup>28</sup>The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot

drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. <sup>29</sup>But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>30</sup>Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. <sup>31</sup>Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses. [NRSV Exodus 14:19-31]

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

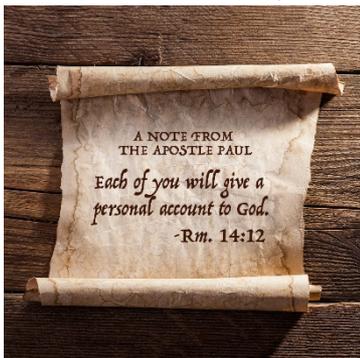
### Psalm 114

- 1 When Israel came out of Egypt: and the house of Jacob from among a people of an alien tongue,
- 2 Judah became his sanctuary: and Israel his dominion.
- 3 The sea saw that, and fled: Jordan was driven back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams: and the little hills like young sheep.
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled: O Jordan, that you were driven back?
- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams: and you little hills like young sheep ?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord: at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8 Who turned the rock into a pool of water: and the flint-stone into a welling spring.



### A reading from the Romans, Chapter 14 beginning at Verse 1

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. <sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own



minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every

tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

<sup>13</sup>Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another. <sup>14</sup>I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. [NRSV Romans 14:1-14]

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

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew,  
Chapter 18 beginning at verse 21**

***Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”[NRSV Matthew 18:21-35]



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

Sentence

**If you, O Lord, should note what we do wrong, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.**

- ***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.

**Think on these things – forgive from the heart - and - If we live we live to the Lord.**

Paul sees that the church is struggling with their relationships between one another. People in the church are quarrelling, judging and despising one another. What a sad situation, instead of seeking to be understanding they were wounding one another. They put themselves and their opinions first and forgot to see Christ in each other’s hearts. Like the servants that worked with this unforgiving servant there was grief and distress. In Psalms 133 David believes that a fellowship of love is worth singing about; Behold how good and pleasant it is when God’s people dwell together in unity.



• **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*** Allison, David, Ron & Ann; Les;; Kathy; 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; Bill; David H; Marjorie; Diane; Jean; Mitchell and family; Kathy; Carolyn; Allison; Angela; Carol; Shirley; Lucy Ann; Margaret, Lyn; Ted & Joyce; Irene; Linda; Tina; Wendy; Chris; Trevor; Liz; Tristan & Trish S; Carole and family; Lainie and Nicholas; John Carroll; Jac Bishop, Joan; Joanie; Andrew; Kerrie; Mary, Margaret’s mum, Kate, Lynn, Colin, *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,  
you call your Church to witness  
that in Christ we are reconciled to you:  
help us so to proclaim the good news of your love,  
that all who hear it may turn to you;  
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.

