



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

20th 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.



When we look at this reading in Matthew have you ever thought, this is a message for me, right now. The amazing thing about the bible is that it speaks into all generations time passed, now, and time to come. In our culture, as it was in the days of Jesus, if you worked you earned a wage. In this parable Jesus is challenging the normal system. What he is doing is to show us that God's love and grace is on His terms. The work in this case is our faithfulness to God, but it is not to earn his favour. In v1 it was God that went out and brought us into his vineyard, He favoured us, came to us and offered us a place in His kingdom and His terms are to give us a life like we had never known before. And in v14 God gives equity to all who come into his Kingdom first or last. God's love is not based on our expectations of winning favour or servitude but is freely given.



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 16 beginning at Verse 2

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." ⁴Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening

you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" ⁸ And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him - what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord." ⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" ¹⁰ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ¹² "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'"



¹³ In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴ When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. [NRSV Exodus 16:2-15]"

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

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

- 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.
- 37 He brought Israel out with silver and with gold: and not one among their tribes was seen to stumble.
- 38 Egypt was glad at their going: for dread of Israel had fallen upon them.
- 39 He spread out a cloud for a covering: and fire to lighten the night.
- 40 The people asked, and he brought them quails: and satisfied them with the bread from heaven.
- 41 He opened a rock, so that the waters gushed: and ran in the parched land like a river.
- 42 For he had remembered his holy word: that he gave to Abraham his servant.
- 43 So he led out his people with rejoicing: his chosen ones with shouts of joy;
- 44 He gave them the land of the nations: and they took possession of the fruit for which other peoples had toiled,
- 45 So that they might keep his statutes: and faithfully obey his laws. O praise the Lord.



A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians, Chapter 1 beginning at Verse 21

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.



²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well - ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

[NRSV Philippians 1:21-30] Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God.

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, Chapter 20 beginning at verse 1
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

¹ "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."



[NRSV Matthew 20:1-16] This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sentence

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

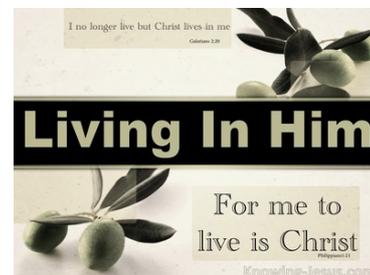
- ***eating reflectively and responding to the passage***

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: I do what I wish with my own things - and - Worthy of the Gospel of Christ.

We live in a culture that believes that we must earn things by what we do. We earn a wage, or respect, or friendships or special recognition by doing things. When someone we may not know so well does something for us or gives something to us simply out of the goodness of their hearts; we can find ourselves wrestling with the thought that we must pay them something or do something back in kind, because we didn't do anything. The whole point about God is that He gave of Himself to us, this is who Jesus is, the free gift of love so that we can truly know God within our lives.

This is because God knew that whatever we did to become close to him would fail. But if we must do something, because of our overwhelming gratitude to what He has become to us, then do as Paul says in v27. Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.



• **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.



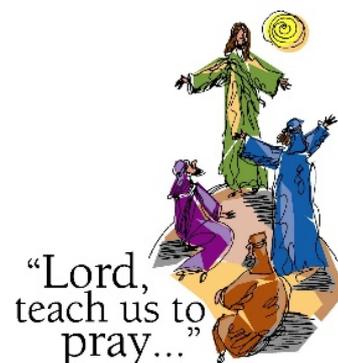
Please pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer Allison, David, Ron & Ann; Les;; Kathy; David; Pat ;Izabelle; Peta ; Mariette; Joanne; Peter G, Peter C; Nicholas B; Samantha; Fiona; Brenton; Sue; Brenda; Pat; Brendon; Fr Peter; Fr Percy & Betty; Bp David; Bill; David H; Marjorie; Diane; Jean; 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

Loving and righteous God,
your boundless generosity exceeds
all that we can desire or deserve,
and you give to the last worker all you promised to the first:
liberate us from all jealousy and greed,
that we may be free to love and serve others,
and in your service may find our true reward;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.

