



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

18th October 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.



Jesus said, Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." And they were amazed. The emperor said he was God; in fact, it was written on the coin. In saying this statement Jesus made it very clear that whatever was the emperors he could have. The Pharisees believed that all things belonged to God meaning Yahweh. So if the emperor wants taxes and civil obedience, we should honour this. But what is it that God is asking us to give? In the Old Testament, in the Gospels and in the New Testament letters we see over and over again, He asks that that we love, worship and obey Him. David sings declaring His glory among the nations, strength and beauty are His sanctuary. Paul celebrates with the Thessalonians because our inspiration comes by the Holy Spirit within us.



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**

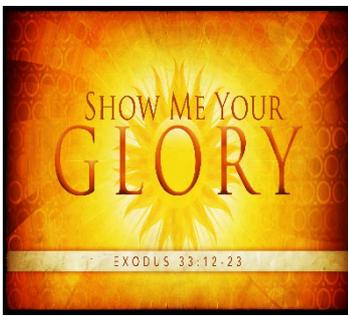


**Bless this food, both physical and spiritual.
Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen, In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

- ***Let us read and reflect on our cycle of readings***

A reading from the Book of Exodus, Chapter 33 beginning at Verse 12

¹² Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favour in my sight.' ¹³ Now if I have found favour in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favour in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." ¹⁴ He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵ And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. ¹⁶ For how shall it be known that I have found favour in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."



¹⁷ The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name." ¹⁸ Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." ¹⁹ And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy." ²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." ²¹ And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; ²³ then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen." [NRSV Exodus 33:12-23]

Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God

Psalm 99

1 The Lord is king, let the nations tremble:
he is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake.
2 The Lord is great in Zion:
he is high above all nations.
3 Let them praise your great and terrible name:
for holy is the Lord.
4 The Mighty One is king and loves justice: you have established
equity, you have dealt righteousness and justice in Jacob.
5 *O exalt the Lord our God:*
and bow down before his footstool, for he is holy.
6 Moses and Aaron among his priests,
and Samuel among those who call upon his name: they called to the Lord and he answered.
7 He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud:
they kept to his teachings and the law that he gave them.
8 You answered them, O Lord our God:
you were a forgiving God to them, and pardoned their wrongdoing.
9 *O exalt the Lord our God:*
and bow down towards his holy hill, for the Lord our God is holy.

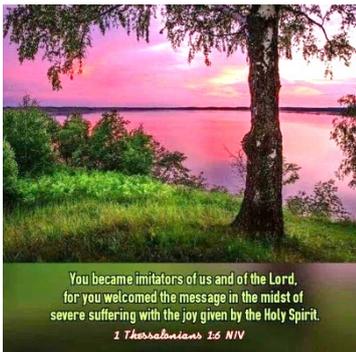


A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians,

Chapter 1 beginning at Verse 1

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you



received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead - Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming. [NRSV 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10]

thanks be to God.

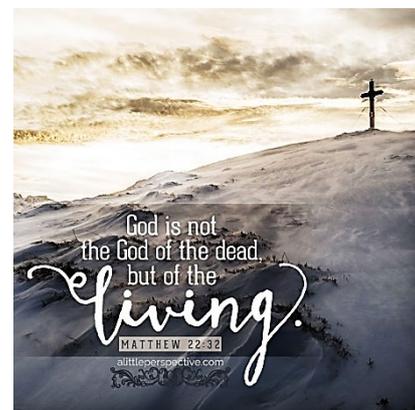
**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, Chapter 22 beginning at verse 15
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

²³ The same day some Sadducees came to him, saying there is no resurrection; and they asked him a question, saying, ²⁴ “Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies childless, his brother shall marry the widow, and raise up children for his brother.’ ²⁵ Now there were seven brothers among us; the first married, and died childless, leaving the widow to his brother. ²⁶ The second did the same, so also the third, down to the seventh. ²⁷ Last of all, the woman herself died. ²⁸ In the resurrection, then, whose wife of the seven will she be? For all of them had married her.”

²⁹ Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God. ³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ³¹ And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, ³² ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is God not of the dead, but of the living.” ³³ And when the crowd heard it, they were astounded at his teaching.

[NRSV Matthew 22:15-33] This is the Gospel of the Lord, ***praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.***



Sentence

This is our God for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

- ***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 contemplate; To serve a living and true God. - Tell of his salvation.

Paul commends the Thessalonians that they have been steadfast in faith and love keeping their hope in Christ Jesus. It is because of the power of the Holy Spirit that we have faith in the word and conviction in the Gospel and joy in serving him. These people loved God and loved others because the Holy Spirit made His love known to them. This is why the whole region came to understand that these people worshiped a true and living God. Their love and obedience were real, even when they were suffering. This was their worship to God. They gave to God what is rightfully God’s and in doing so many others came to believe in God because they saw how real He was in them. We may Give to God what is God’s, but we can never outgive Him. The more we give, in the many ways we can love; He will build upon. And we will know in our hearts that He loves us. This is the assurance of our Hope in salvation.



• **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.



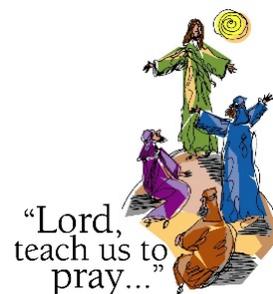
Please pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer

David, Ron & Ann; 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; Lainie and Nicholas; John Carroll; Jac Bishop, Joan; Joanie; Andrew; Kerrie; Mary, Margaret’s mum, Kate, Lynn, Colin, Cathy, Allison and Les. *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

Almighty and everlasting God,
in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations:
grant that your Church throughout the world
may persevere with steadfast faith
in proclaiming the cross to be the way that leads to life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and 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.

