



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

25th 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.



THE MYSTERIES OF GOD'S LOVE.

Have you ever been challenged about your faith or an aspect of the Bible? The other day I was talking to someone who said they could not go to church because they struggled with some of God's mysteries. I asked if they believed in God, and they said they did. So I asked them why not concentrate on getting to know God and I am sure He can sort out the mysteries. In this discussion Jesus had with the Pharisees, These very learned men got bogged down with their theology and forgot their relationship with God; even though the laws they quoted were specifically about loving God. We too are called in a loving trusting relationship with God and the outcome of doing this is, He enables us to love our neighbours and His mysteries become more and more a part of God and not an abstract thing apart from God. This is the journey he calls us into.

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.

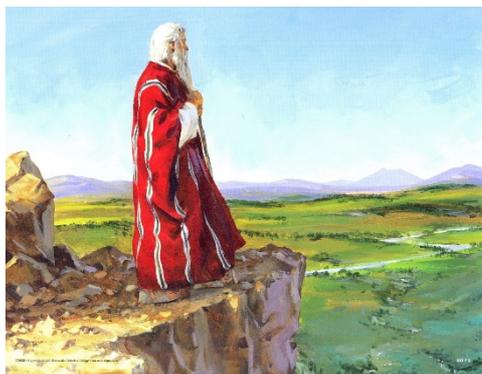
Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen, In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

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

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy, Chapter 34 beginning at Verse 1

¹Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, ²all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, ³the Negeb, and the Plain - that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees - as far as Zoar. ⁴The Lord said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there." ⁵Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the

land of Moab, at the Lord's command. ⁶ He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. ⁷ Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired, and his vigour had not abated. ⁸ The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.



⁹ Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses.

¹⁰ Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. ¹¹ He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, ¹² and for all the mighty

deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel. [NRSV Deuteronomy 34:1-12]

Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

¹ Lord, you have been our refuge: from one generation to another.

² Before the mountains were born or the earth and the world were brought to be:
from eternity to eternity you are God.

³ You turn us back into dust: saying 'Return to dust, O children of Adam.'

⁴ For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday
passing: or like one watch of the night.

⁵ You cut them short like a dream:
like the fresh grass of the morning;

⁶ In the morning it is green and flourishes:
at evening it is withered and dried up.

¹³ Relent, O Lord; how long will you be angry?:
take pity on your servants.

¹⁴ O satisfy us early with your mercy: that all our days we may rejoice and sing.

¹⁵ Give us joy for all the days you have afflicted us: for the years we have suffered adversity.

¹⁶ Show your servants your work: and let their children see your glory.

¹⁷ May the gracious favour of the Lord our God be upon us: prosper the work of our hands,
O prosper the work of our hands!



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

Chapter 2 beginning at Verse 1

¹ You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, ² but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³ For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴ but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵ As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; ⁶ nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷ though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸ So

deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.



⁹ You remember our labour and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers. ¹¹ As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, ¹² urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

¹³ We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.

[NRSV 1 Thessalonians 2:1-13] Hear the word of the Lord, ***thanks be to God.***

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, Chapter 22 beginning at verse 34

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷ He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."



⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴² "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." ⁴³ He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴ 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? ⁴⁵ If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" ⁴⁶ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions. [NRSV Matthew 22:34-46]

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.

Think on these words Good fruit - So deeply do we care for you.

We see in Thessalonians; the deep love Paul has for these people. The Thessalonians had accepted the Gospel against persecution. Paul says he came to them against great opposition. They did not preach with clever words to beguile and flatter them or to deceive and trick them into believing. He said, they preached the Gospel knowing God saw the motivation of their hearts in reaching out to them. This gospel is so precious that they even put their own selves in danger. What is this Gospel? That Jesus had made a way for all to come to God and know how awesome his love is for them, that God welcomes all people into His presence as His family. He calls us to walk daily in an everlasting relationship with Him; And His Spirit teaches us How deep His love is as we seek to love and obey Him. For it is God's delight to make us His trees of righteousness who yield good fruit.



• **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; 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; Carol, Mary, Margaret’s mum, Kate, Lynn, Colin, Cathy, Allison, Les, and Liv (age 4) recovering after having her tonsils removed, *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,
whose Son has taught us that love is the fulfilment
of your law:
stir up within us the fire of your Holy Spirit,
and pour into our hearts your greatest gift of love,
so that we may love you with our whole being,
and our neighbours as ourselves;
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.

