



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

4th 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 stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.”
MATTHEW 21:42



Often Parables affirm to us about our faith, about how we live in God’s kingdom. The Parable in Matthew 21 is a shocking story. Jesus was speaking about the spiritual leaders of Israel. Jesus asked them what would they do to those tenants that killed the owner’s servants and even his son. They said they would put the tenants to death. Jesus then told them that he was the Son, the rejected cornerstone. He was really telling them they are the tenants and that they do not deserve God’s kingdom. When people put their faith in the religious structure and not the owner of the vineyard, our Father God. Then they become lost in their own self-righteousness. We can never inherit God’s kingdom by the things we do in our own strength.

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:

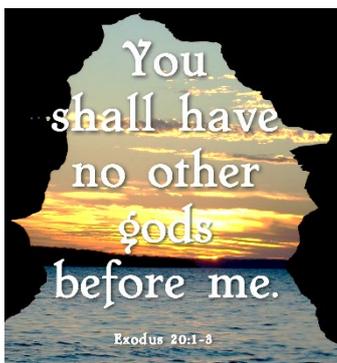
**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Here, and throughout the world,
We adore you O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen**



**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 20 beginning at Verse 1



¹Then God spoke all these words: ²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labour and

do all your work.¹² Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour. ¹⁸When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, ¹⁹and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." ²⁰Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

[NRSV Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20]

Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God

Psalm 19

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God: and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
- 2 One day tells it to another: and night to night communicates knowledge.
- 3 There is no speech or language: nor are their voices heard.
- 4 Yet their sound has gone out through all the world: and their words to the ends of the earth.
- 5 There he has pitched a tent for the sun: which comes out as a bridegroom from his chamber, and rejoices like a strong man to run his course.
- 6 Its rising is at one end of the heavens, and its circuit to their farthest bound: and nothing is hidden from its heat.
- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul: the command of the Lord is true, and makes wise the simple.
- 8 The precepts of the Lord are right and rejoice the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever: the judgements of the Lord are unchanging, and righteous everyone.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold: sweeter also than honey, than the honey that drips from the comb.
- 11 Moreover, by them is your servant taught: and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can know their own unwitting sins?: O cleanse me from my secret faults.
- 13 Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins, lest they get the mastery over me: so I shall be clean, and innocent of great offence.
- 14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight: O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.



A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians, Chapter 3 beginning at Verse 4b

^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had; these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ¹ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I

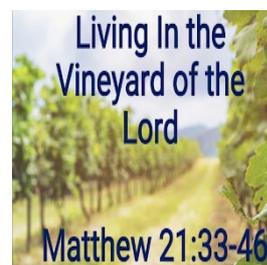


do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. [NRSV Philippians 3:4b-14]

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

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, Chapter 21 beginning at verse 33
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

³³ "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹ They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."



⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?"

⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." ⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet. [NRSV Matthew 21:33-46]

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

Sentence

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

- ***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 these words: 'let us kill him and get his inheritance' and 'The righteousness from God is based on Faith'.



The key to this parable is in v43. The Kingdom of God will be given to the people who produce the fruit of the Kingdom. Before Jesus came to Paul, he was a religious leader, and Paul lists all his credentials in this Philippians reading. When He followed Jesus he left it all behind, counting it as rubbish. He gained a far better reward, Jesus Christ himself. Paul was wise enough to know that his faith had nothing to do with his own righteousness but in the power of Christ's resurrection life within him. His life in Christ was not of his doing but because Christ Jesus had made him His own. It is the nature of Jesus in our lives that produces the fruit fit for our Father'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 We give thanks that Cathy is now home, and that Allison is in rehab at Hove and for Carole recovering from a stroke. Pray for continued healing and freedom from pain. We also remember 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; 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

Almighty God,
 your Son Jesus was the stone rejected by the builders,
 and, by your doing, he has been made the chief cornerstone:
 grant that, by the power of his Spirit working in us,
 we may become living stones
 built up into your dwelling place,
 a temple holy and acceptable to you;
 through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and 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.

