



## SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

29th November 2020

First Sunday in Advent



**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 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 on this, the first Sunday in Advent, let us define the occasion by adding something special to our table that bring us Hope.

- **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.



Mark reminds us that quite literally Jesus will rule one day over the earth and we are to live expectantly as if it may be this very hour. We all pray thy Kingdom come thy will be done here on earth as it is in Heaven. And we know God's kingdom is demonstrated through our lives or rather He has appointed us all to be His ambassadors in action. Demonstrating to the world just what the grace and love of Jesus Christ is all about when He is Lord over our lives. Paul praises the Corinthian's because the Lord has enriched them in speech and knowledge, and their testimony in Christ has grown strong, and the congregation does not lack spiritual gifts, gifts that are obviously used to edify others demonstrating that we are God's sons and daughters. If you read 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 carefully it is the Lord Jesus Christ that does this work in them and us as well, and he is the one who has called us all into His fellowship as we wait on Him.

**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 Isaiah, Chapter 64 beginning at Verse 1**



<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence - <sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil - to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. <sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself, we transgressed. <sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. <sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. <sup>8</sup>Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people. [NRSV Isaiah 64:1-9] Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**

**Psalm 80 verses 1-7 17-19**

- 1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
- 2 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.  
Stir up your might, and come to save us!
- 3 Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears,  
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
- 6 You make us the scorn of our neighbours.  
our enemies laugh among themselves.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- 17 But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
- 18 Then we will never turn back from you;  
give us life, and we will call on your name.
- 19 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.



**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 1 beginning at Verse 1**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, <sup>2</sup>To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: <sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.



<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind - <sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you - <sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is

faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

[NRSV 1 Corinthians 1:1-9]

Hear the word of the Lord,

***thanks be to God.***

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, Chapter 13 beginning at verse 24**

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

<sup>24</sup> “But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup> and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.



<sup>28</sup> “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup> “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup> It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup> Therefore, keep awake - for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup> or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup> And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.” [NRSV Mark 13:24-37]  
This is the Gospel of the Lord, ***praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

### **Sentence**

**‘Heaven and earth will pass away,’ says the Lord, ‘but my words will not pass away.’**

#### **• 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.

### **By Him you were called**

### **We are the clay, and you are the potter**



The readings from Mark and Corinthians and in the first reflection may leave you wondering, ‘how is this possible?’ ‘And how can I be an ambassador or give a strong testimony?’ Isaiah 64 and Ps 80 are prayers of the Israelites in exile asking for God’s power. Asking God to be amongst us on the earth and show forth His omnipotent authority over nature and men. Yet the prayer concedes that even our righteousness before God is as filthy rags, we can do nothing and how can God look upon this. This is where the prayer turns in v8 as it acknowledges that it is only God in our lives that can do the work to form us into His people. In Psalm 80 again we see that who we are as God’s people is by God’s work alone. Taking us from our weaknesses and investing in us His life. The beautiful thing in Isaiah and David’s Psalm is that His work in us comes because we invite Him to shape us the way He wants us to be. Then because of this invitation, His Kingdom can be truly seen in our lives on this earth as it is in Heaven.

• **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.



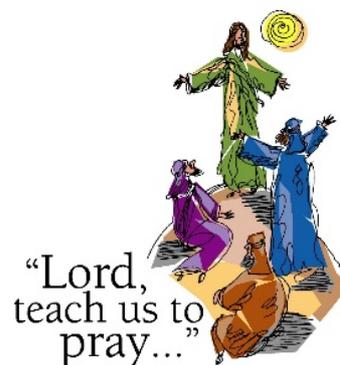
***Please pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer.***

We also remember David, Ron & Ann; Kathy; 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;; 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, Carole, Allison, Ann, Jean and Betty *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**

Eternal God,  
through long generations you prepared a way  
for the coming of your Son,  
and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths:  
renew us in faith and hope  
that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts  
and claim our love;  
to whom be glory forever. **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.

