



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

15th November 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 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 go to church, we see people that have different abilities. Some are born leaders, some have a real gift of caring for others. The truth is we all have abilities God gives us to bless others. We should never belittle the talents we have just because someone else may seem to be so good at what they do. It is really not about the talent but what we do about it, and what we do about it must come from our hearts because we know that with the love for God anything can be transformed. Encouragement, healing of the soul, inspiring and teaching one another of God's relationship with us. He gives us this chance to be that He trusts us to be His Gift givers. Even a small gift of talent can open a door for God to work His miracles.

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 Judges,
Chapter 4 beginning at Verse 1**

¹The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. ²So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. ³Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

⁴At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. ⁵She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. ⁶She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, “The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, ‘Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. ⁷I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.’” ⁸Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.” ⁹And she said, “I will surely go with you;



nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.” Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. ¹⁰Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and ten thousand warriors went up behind him; and Deborah went up with him. [NRSV Judges 4:1-10] Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**

Psalm 123

- 1 To you I lift up my eyes:
you who are enthroned in the heavens.
- 2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master:
or as the eyes of a maid toward the hand of her mistress,
- 3 So our eyes look to the Lord our God:
until he show us his mercy.
- 4 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have had our fill of derision.
- 5 Our souls overflow with the mockery of those at ease:
and with the contempt of the proud.



A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians, Chapter 5 beginning at Verse 1

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. [NRSV 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11]



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

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew Chapter 25 beginning at verse 15
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Jesus said to his disciples, “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more

The Parable of the Talents



talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trust-worthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' [NRSV Matthew 25:14-30]

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sentence

God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other.

• ***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.

Let us not fall asleep as others do - He dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.



In Thessalonians v11 it says therefore encourage one another and build up each other. But this is not a vain thing Paul is calling the church to do. Everything we do to help each other love God deeper also displays His church to the world. We have to ask ourselves if someone comes to church will they feel the peace of God, His joy and welcome. Are these things at the forefront of our worship or are they only secondary. Our liturgy is valuable, it is saturated with the word of God and His gospel; but without the Joy and peace, love, and kindness our liturgy is as nothing and speaks to no one, as if it is buried. In this week's gospel Jesus is challenging the individual, do our lives proclaim God's life within our souls, do we walk in His compassion and grace with loving tenderness for all men and women?

• ***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 for the life work and witness of Les Szalay (a member of St Nicholas Congregation) who has been on our prayer list and hearts for a while, finally free from pain and reunited with Lee. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. We pray for comfort for his family and friends.

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 any others we wish to say either silently or aloud.*

Let us say the Lord’s Prayer Together. Our Father

Prayer of the Day

Everliving God,
 before the earth was formed,
 and even after it shall cease to be, you are God.
 Break into our short span of life
 and show us those things that are eternal,
 that we may serve your purpose in all we do;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and 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.

