



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

22nd November 2020

CHRIST THE KING

*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 last Sunday of the church year, let us define the occasion by adding something special to 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.



This is Christ the King Sunday, and we celebrate His reign. Have you thought what this means? That Christ is our King and if He is, He reigns over us. We are His subjects, and He gives us the opportunity to honour Him with our lives. In this Gospel reading Matthew spells out what this means. Those who serve God out of their own self centredness for their own glory miss the point. This parable shows us that it is not just what we do that earns us God's approval, but what we do motivated by our love for God that is significant. When we know his unconditional love for us, we cannot

help ourselves, we have to share this love. If we do social justice things and then rubberstamp it with God, then all we are is social workers just from a different institution; And here is the point, it is not what we do, it is the spiritual sharing of God's love in whatever action we do, so others will know that the love of God is to be valued most of all, not food nor drink, not clothing nor hospitality, medicine nor visiting those imprisoned; all these things are important but the receiver needs to see God's love in the souls of the givers first and foremost. *Truly in-as-much as you have done it to the least of these you have done it unto me.*

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 Prophet Ezekiel, Chapter 34 beginning at Verse 11

¹¹ For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹² As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.



²⁰ Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹ Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²² I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³ I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴ And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

[NRSV Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24]

Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God

Psalm 100

- 1 O shout to the Lord in triumph, all the earth:
serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his face with songs of joy.
- 2 Know that the Lord he is God:
it is he who has made us, and we are his.
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
- 3 Come into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise:
give thanks to him and bless his holy name.
- 4 For the Lord is good, his loving mercy is for ever:
his faithfulness throughout all generations.



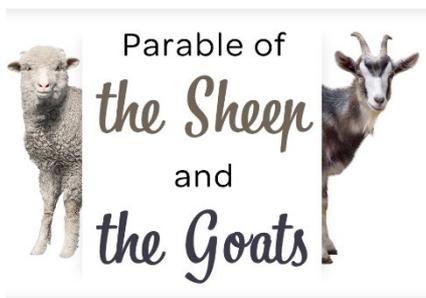
A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians, Chapter 1 beginning at Verse 15

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.



[NRSV Ephesians 1:15-23] Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God.



³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a

stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, ⁴¹you did it to me.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” [NRSV Matthew 25:31-46]



This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sentence O shout to the Lord in triumph all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness and come before his face with songs of joy.

• ***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.

With the eyes of your heart enlightened and so I will seek out my own sheep.

Matthew makes another point; God praises those who have served Him faithfully and gives account of their actions. Those he praises ask, “when did we do these things?” Accolades were not important to them they gave from the wealth of God’s unfathomable goodness and mercy. Paul rejoices because of the Ephesians faith in God they displayed His love to all. Human praise or even praise from God was not a thought in their hearts or minds. Like David in Psalms 100, Praise from others was not the motivation. All that we do is to show how great our Lord and King is; and we should do this as loudly as possible with gladness and thanksgiving, knowing His steadfast love for us endures forever. This is our acceptable worship that overwhelms us with his Joy. In this time of isolation and restrictions let us reach out to others in Christs love, to bring encouragement, reassurance to others and so they will know they are a valuable part of God’s family, loved and not forgotten.



• **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.

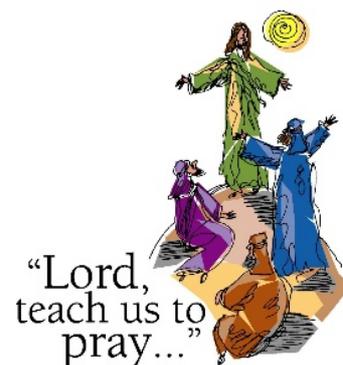
We also remember David, Ron & Ann; Kathy; Pat ;Izabelle; Peta ; Mariette; Joanne; Peter G, Peter C; Nicholas B; Samantha; Fiona; Brenton; Sue; Brenda; Pat; Brendon; Fr Peter; Fr Percy & Betty; Bp David; Bill; David H; Marjorie; Diane; Jean; Mitchell and family; Kathy; Carolyn;; Angela; Carol; Shirley; 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

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Prayer of the Day

God of power and love,
who raised your Son Jesus from death to life,
resplendent in glory to rule over all creation:
free the world to rejoice in his peace,
to glory in his justice, and to live in his love.
Unite the human race in Jesus Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever? **Amen.**



“Lord,
teach us to
pray...”



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.

