



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE
27th December 2020
First Sunday After Christmas
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.

- **Prayerful and intentional preparation for a meal**

As we celebrate on this first Sunday After Christmas let us define the occasion by including a special gift or memory to our table. Give some thought to the presentation of our meal as a meditation on the importance of the time we are setting aside for worship.



Just think what it was like for Mary and Joseph at temple, an old man grabs the child and started prophesising over him saying that He is God's salvation but there would be great sorrow for Mary. Then an elderly woman arrives and says similar things. It is not like Joseph and Mary have not heard this before, but now Jesus time is becoming so much more a reality. Before Jesus was 12, he was already recognised to have wisdom and to be in God's favour. So, in the temple at 12 many people were astounded at his understanding and his answers. Why should we be surprised? Jesus was the very presence of God amongst us, He knew his Father in heaven well, because he was of His Father. Paul says in Galatians that we also belong to the Father, 'God has sent the Spirit of the Son into our hearts.' And we can cry "Abba Father!" affirming His devotion to us. Our heavenly Father whose love far surpasses the love of a parent. We too inherit the same wisdom and knowledge as Jesus had with His Father because of this impartation of the Holy Spirit. Because of our love's desire to be with God He teaches us His ways.

- **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 of Isaiah, Chapter 61 beginning at Verse 10



¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

¹ For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ² The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. ³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. [NRSV Isaiah 61:10-62:3]

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

Psalm 148

¹ Praise the Lord, praise the Lord from heaven: O praise him in the heights.
² Praise him, all his angels: O praise him, all his host.
³ Praise him, sun and moon: praise him, all you stars of light.
⁴ Praise him, you highest heaven: and you waters that are above the heavens.
⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded and they were made.
⁶ He established them for ever and ever: he made an ordinance which shall not pass away.
⁷ O praise the Lord from the earth: raise him, you sea-monsters and all deeps;
⁸ Fire and hail, mist and snow: and storm-wind fulfilling his command;
⁹ Mountains and all hills: fruit trees and all cedars;
¹⁰ Beasts of the wild, and all cattle: creeping things and winged birds;
¹¹ Kings of the earth, and all peoples: princes, and all rulers of the world;
¹² Young men and maidens: old folk and children together.
¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord: for his name alone is exalted.
¹⁴ His glory is above earth and heaven: and he has lifted high the horn of his people.
¹⁵ Therefore he is the praise of all his servants: of the children of Israel, a people that is near him. Praise the Lord.



A reading from Letter of Paul to Galatians, Chapter 4 beginning at Verse 4



⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶ And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

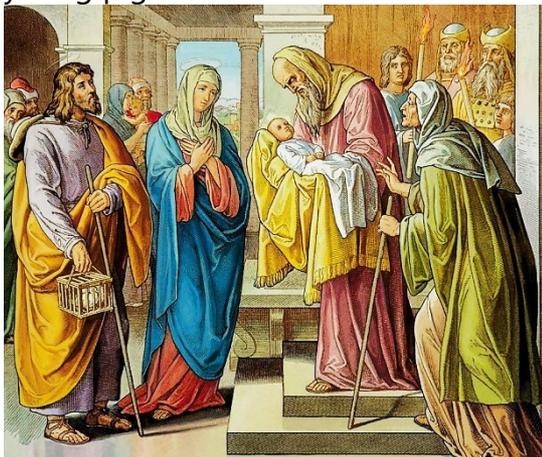
[NRSV Galatians 4:4-7]

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, Chapter 2 beginning at Verse 22

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ ²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴ and they

offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."



²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen

your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. [NRSV Luke 2:22-40]

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sentence

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.

• 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.

A light for revelation to the Gentiles

You are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then an heir, through God.

Isaiah speaks the word of the Lord, He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, covered me with the robe of righteousness. To all the nations, we are like God's garden planted to bloom in such glorious beauty as praise to God; to show his wondrous righteousness like we have been adorned with jewels. This is why God has given us His salvation to wear with honour. When we live in it, people notice that we belong to something very different that this not of world. Something that is good and healthy and full of virtue that affects all around us. This is why our hearts burst with praise, our whole being exulting God.



His blessings to us then naturally bless others. And the favour of God that was upon Jesus overflows upon us.

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.



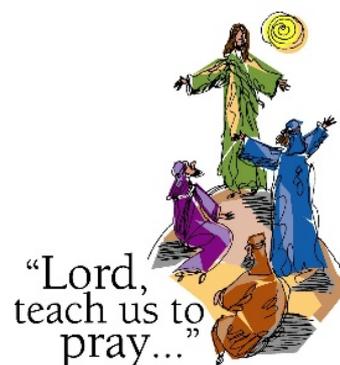
Please pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer.

We continue to pray with, Lynn, 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; 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, Kate, Colin, Cathy, Carol, 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

Saving God,
whose Son Jesus was presented in the temple
and was acclaimed the glory of Israel
and the light of the nations:
grant that in him we may be presented to you
and in the world may reflect his glory.
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of 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 with others who may be alone or missing seeing their families and loved ones during the Christmas Season. Use the time to catch up with your family and friends who are interstate or overseas. Use email or face time or SMS to keep in contact and share with others the Joy of Chrismtas and the promise of a brighter and better future in 2021.



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