



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

3rd January 2021

*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 today 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.



If we were to dwell just on John 1:16 its significance grows and grows. 'From His fulness, we have received grace upon grace.' This amazing grace is that while we were yet sinners Christ came and dwelt among us and died for our salvation. Here in this, is the enveloping 'grace upon grace' that even while we knew him not, he came to us because we are His; and in His salvation we inherit the fulness of Him; can you imagine that? The more we grow to know our Lord the more we know how sacred his love is for us. This scripture says that this grace comes from His fulness; what God has done for us is from all of His being, every part of God calls us to enter into this grace, to receive it and be saturated in it. Once all we had to lead us was the law of Moses; but now as His children, we live in His glory with Jesus filling us with His of grace and His truth.

- ***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 Jeremiah, Chapter 31 beginning at Verse 7

⁷ For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel."⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,

among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with consolations[d] I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock. ¹¹ For the Lord has ransomed



Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my

people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God

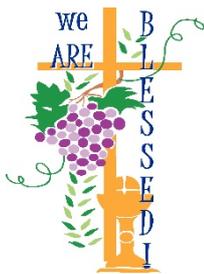
Psalm 147:12-20

- ¹² Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!
sing praises to your God, O Zion
- ¹³ For he strengthened the bars of your gates;
and blessed your children within you.
- ¹⁴ He grants peace within your borders;
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- ¹⁵ He sends his command to the earth;
and his word runs very swiftly.
- ¹⁶ He gives snow like wool;
and scatters the hoar-frost like ashes.
- ¹⁷ He sprinkles his ice like morsels of bread:
and the waters harden at his frost.
- ¹⁸ He sends out his word and melts them;
he blows with his wind and the waters flow.
- ¹⁹ He made his word known to Jacob:
his statutes and judgements to Israel.
- ²⁰ He has not dealt so with any other nation;
nor have they knowledge of his laws. Praise the Lord!



A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians, Chapter 1 beginning at Verse 3

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel



of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. **Hear the word of the Lord,** **thanks be to God.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, Chapter 1 beginning at Verse 1
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sentence

'I will turn your mourning into joy,' says the Lord. 'I will comfort you, and give you gladness for sorrow.'

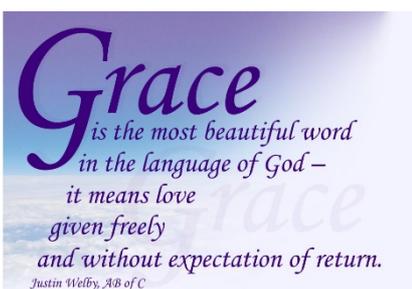
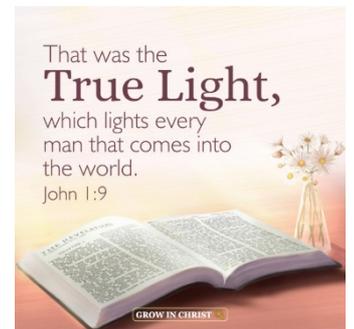
• eating reflectively and responding to the passage

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.

I will lead then in a straight path in which they shall not stumble

He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.

In Ephesians Paul tells us, In him (Jesus) we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses. Then He says, this is from the richness of God's grace, and from His wisdom and insight that He lavishes this grace upon us. Can you accept that it gives God pleasure to do this? When we know God's grace, we can understand His why He loves us so much. We are not simply saved, but he then invites us to be participants with Him to show how wonderful His grace is. This is the 'mark' He has put upon us 'sealing' it with His Holy Spirit. To all who receive Him and believe on His name, He gives them the power to become Children of God. This power is the same Spirit that John the Baptist said Jesus would baptise us with. The Holy Spirit whom Jesus promised would live within us, teaching us all things. It is only the Holy Spirit that



enables us to embrace this grace; to see clearly all He has enabled us to be. This is the essence of grace upon grace, to know Jesus as our Lord, the one who we obey. In this we receive all He has planned for us, how he has transformed us and How He equips us in His mission to all of His creation.

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.



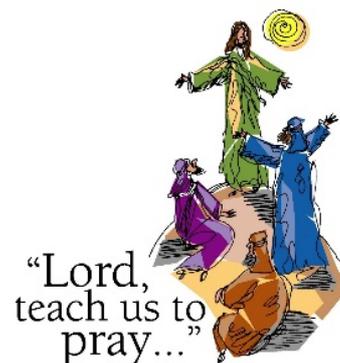
Please pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer.

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

Almighty God,
you have filled us with the light if the Word,
who became flash and lived among us:
let the light of faith shine in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for 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 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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