



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

10th 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 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 lighting a candle or similar in remembrance of our own Baptism. Give some thought to the presentation of our meal as a meditation on the importance of the time we are setting aside for worship.



Who baptises who, and with what, and what for? John is baptising in a baptism of repentance in preparation of the coming of Christ. Later the disciples are baptising in a baptism of new life in Jesus. Jesus Himself baptises us into the Holy Spirit. It all can get a bit confusing as we see in Acts; much later after the Pentecost outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Paul meets Christians who have not quite got the understanding of baptism. Paul shows these faithful people that as Christians they need to receive the Holy Spirit as well. First was their Baptism into the life of Christ, declaring that all they have, and all they are, is surrendered to Jesus Lordship. But to understand His authority Paul reminds them of John's words "He will baptise you in the Holy Spirit. Jesus taught that He would give us the Holy Spirit who would be our guide and umpire and teach us all things. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ and when He dwells upon us then we see how God connects us with Him in our lives and in the lives of others.

- ***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 Genesis, Chapter 1 beginning at Verse 1



1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2 the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

[NRSV Genesis 1:1-5]

Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God

Psalm 29

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven:
ascribe to the Lord glory and might.
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name:
O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness.
- 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord upon the great waters.
- 4 The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation:
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar-trees:
the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.
- 6 He makes them skip like a calf:
Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the Lord divides the lightning-flash:
the voice of the Lord whirls the sands of the desert,
the Lord whirls the desert of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the Lord rends the terebinth trees,
and strips bare the forests:
in his temple all cry 'Glory.'
- 9 The Lord sits enthroned above the water-flood:
the Lord sits enthroned as a king for ever.
- 10 The Lord will give strength to his people:
the Lord will give to his people the blessing of peace.

The Lord
gives
STRENGTH
to his people;
the Lord
blesses his
people with
PEACE.

-Psalm 29:11



A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 19 beginning at Verse 1

1 While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. 2 He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." 3 Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." 4 Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied - 7 altogether there were about twelve of them. [NRSV Acts 19:1-7]



Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God.

The Gospel of our Lord beginning at Verse 4



4 John the baptizer repented for the sins. 5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." [NRSV Mark 1:4-11]

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

Jesus Christ according to Mark, Chapter 1

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of forgiveness of



praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sentence

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; and he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

• *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.

Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?

I baptised you with water; but He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.



When John said, "there is one more powerful than I coming after me; and I am not worthy to untie his sandals," this was a massive understatement! Jesus was and is and has the authority over all creation as we see in the Old testament reading and David's psalm. John says, "It is He who will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." Can you imagine there is more to being a Christian? God wants to overwhelm you, fill you, with His presence and authority? Paul prayed for the Ephesian Christians receive the Holy Spirit and God demonstrated His authority in them. Likewise, our prayer should be that we receive and be continually filled with the Holy Spirit because it is He that opens our eyes and our hearts to seeing Him in a new and wonderful way. Jesus said in John 14 He would not leave us on our own and this is what He means. As we walk in Faith in our daily lives, we can know with abundant assurance that the presence of God is with us and enables us to serve Him effectively in and with His full authority.

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's Family; 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

Loving God,
your Son came to seek the lost,
and was baptised with sinners:
grant that we, who have been baptised in his name,
may reach out in love to those in need
with the mercy of Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



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 promise of a brighter and better future in 2021.

