



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 by adding something special to our table, maybe something that helps you reflect on the experience of Jesus in your life. Give some thought to the presentation of our meal as a meditation on the importance of the time we are setting aside for worship.



Experiencing Jesus Sometimes someone tells us something incredible and we find it hard to believe what they are saying. It does not matter how much they explain what they have experienced, we remain sceptical. Many times in the bible someone brings good news only to be treated as suspicious. When Jesus told Nicodemus, he had to be born again, when Mary told the disciples that Jesus was not dead, when the disciples told Thomas that they had seen Jesus; there are many other situations we can read about.

What changed them from being sceptical was that they had an encounter with Jesus themselves. Nathaniel was sceptical about Philip's news that a carpenter in a low country town was the Messiah, and who would blame him. The only way Philip could convince Nathaniel was to say, "come and see." We have faith in God through Jesus but what gives us our faith gravitas? It is to really experience Jesus ourselves. But how is this possible?

- ***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.

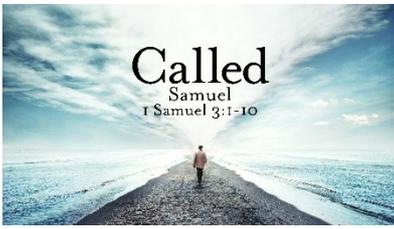
**Here, and throughout the world,
We adore you O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen**



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 first book of Samuel, Chapter 3 beginning at Verse 1 ¹ Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. ² At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³ the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the Lord called,



“Samuel! Samuel!”^[a] and he said, “Here I am!”⁵ and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down.⁶ The Lord called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.”⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.⁸ The Lord called Samuel

again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy.⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.¹⁰ Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”¹¹ Then the Lord said to Samuel, “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle.¹² On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.¹³ For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them.¹⁴ Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.”¹⁵ Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli.¹⁶ But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.”¹⁷ Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.”¹⁸ So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.”¹⁹ As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord. [NRSV 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)]

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

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-18

- 1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me:
you know when I sit or when I stand, you comprehend my thoughts long before.
- 2 You discern my path and the places where I rest:
you are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 For there is not a word on my tongue:
but you, Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You have encompassed me behind and before:
and have laid your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me:
so high that I cannot endure it.
- 12 For you have created my inward parts:
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
- 13 I will praise you, for you are to be feared:
fearful are your acts, and wonderful your works.
- 14 You knew my soul, and my bones were not hidden from you:
when I was formed in secret, and woven in the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes saw my limbs when they were yet imperfect:
and in your book were all my members written;
- 16 Day by day they were fashioned:
and not one was late in growing.
- 17 How deep are your thoughts to me, O God:
and how great is the sum of them!
- 18 Were I to count them, they are more in number than the sand:
were I to come to an end, I would still be with you.



A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 6 beginning at Verse 12



¹² “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³ “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” ¹⁷ But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸ Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body. [NRSV 1 Corinthians 6:12-20]

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 43

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” ⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” ⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰ Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” ⁵¹ And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.” [NRSV John 1:43-51]



This is the Gospel of the Lord, ***praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

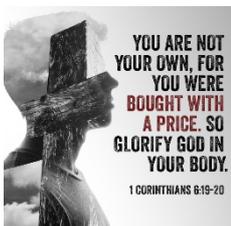
Sentence

We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the king of 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.

Reflect on this: Come and see, He is (We are) united with Him in Spirit



In Corinthians 6 we see Paul giving a lecture on sex. Corinthians was a busy port city in which the temple of Aphrodite was. Here sex slaves, men and women were held as offerings to her for fertility rights. Open sexual promiscuity was socially acceptable then, and it was in this setting Paul begins his work establishing the Corinthian Christian church. We see Paul teaching what unity in Christ was against the backdrop of Aphrodite’s temple; “do you not know your bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit.” Many Christians today think Paul is condemning those who lived in this culture; but he was imploring the early Christians to live a life counter to that culture, living to a standard that was wholesome holy and healthy. He knew too well that the underbelly of the sex culture brought devastation, disease, and death. Verse 16 says “But he who

unites himself with the Lord is one with Him in Spirit." Once again Paul counters the physical from the Spiritual. United with the Lord, our Spirit is united with His Holy Spirit and we see the key in truly knowing beyond doubt and scepticism that Jesus is real within our lives.

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.

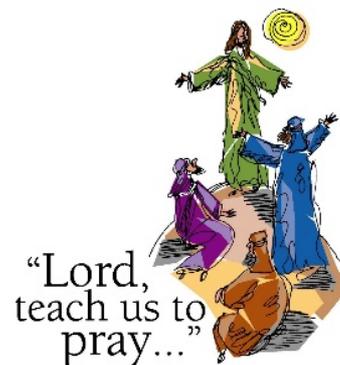


Please pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer. We give thanks for the life work and witness of Father Peter Carlsson, may he rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen. We continue to pray with, Lynn, David, Ron & Ann; Kathy's Family; Pat ;Izabelle; Peta ; Mariette; Joanne; Peter G, Peter C; Nicholas B; Samantha; Fiona; Brenton; Sue; Brenda; Pat; Brendon; Fr 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

Eternal God,
whose Son, Jesus Christ, is now exalted as Lord of all,
and pours out his gifts upon the Church:
grant it that unity which only your Spirit can give,
keep us in the bond of peace,
and bring all creation to worship before your throne;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for 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 and would welcome a call or message from you. 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.

