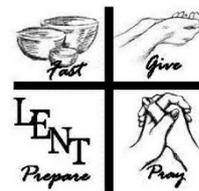




## SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

7<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Third Sunday in Lent

Let us watch Songs of Praise together on the ABC  
and then set the table for our shared meal.

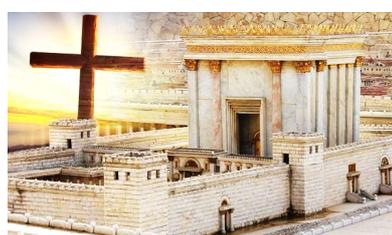


- **Setting our table for our Sunday lunch service.**

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 worship at home today let us give some thought to the presentation of our meal, let our table reflect the importance of the season of lent, a time of reflection, prayer and fasting



What on earth is happening in this Gospel reading? First Jesus tells everyone to respect His Father's house, other readings say he took a whip and chased the money changers out. Then he says Destroy this temple and I will rebuild it in three days. John clarifies Jesus words and says Jesus is speaking about His body. But the Temple building and Jesus Body were synonymous. The Temple was where the

presence of God dwelt among His people. Jesus body was the same but more because Jesus the man was Gods house; He was God came to dwell among His people in physical form. In about 70AD the temple was destroyed and was never rebuilt again. Jesus was crucified and rose again after three days. It all sounds so far fetched and Paul says to the Corinthians the Cross is foolishness to those who think they are wise; but Gods wisdom always has significance.

- **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 Exodus, Chapter 20 beginning at Verse 1**

<sup>1</sup> Then God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup> I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup> you shall have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup> You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a

jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup> but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. <sup>7</sup> You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. <sup>8</sup> Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup> But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work - you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. <sup>12</sup> Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup> You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup> You shall not commit adultery.

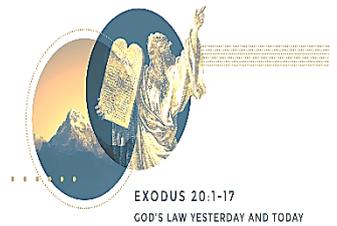
<sup>15</sup> You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup> You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup> You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. [NRSV Exodus 20:1-17]

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

## — The Ten Commandments



### Psalm 19

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God: and the firmament proclaims his handiwork;

<sup>2</sup>One day tells it to another: and night to night communicates knowledge.

<sup>3</sup>There is no speech or language: nor are their voices heard;

<sup>4</sup>Yet their sound has gone out through all the world: and their words to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup>There he has pitched a tent for the sun: which comes out as a bridegroom from his chamber, and rejoices like a strong man to run his course.

<sup>6</sup>Its rising is at one end of the heavens, and its circuit to their farthest bound: and nothing is hidden from its heat.

<sup>7</sup>The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul: the command of the Lord is true,

and makes wise the simple.

<sup>8</sup>The precepts of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart:

the commandment of the Lord is pure, and gives light to the eyes.

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the Lord is clean, and endures for ever: the judgements of the Lord are unchanging, and righteous every one.

<sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold: sweeter also than honey, than the honey that drips from the comb.

<sup>11</sup> Moreover, by them is your servant taught: and in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup> Who can know their own unwitting sins?: O cleanse me from my secret faults.

<sup>13</sup> Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins, lest they get the mastery over me: so I shall be clean, and innocent of great offence.

<sup>14</sup> May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight: O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

### **A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 1 beginning at Verse 18**

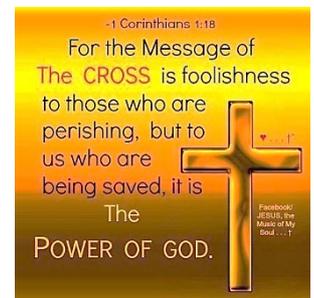
<sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the



scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to

Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. [NRSV 1 Corinthians 1:18-25]

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



## **The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, Chapter 2 beginning at Verse 13 Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



<sup>13</sup> The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup> Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup> He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" <sup>17</sup> His

disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup> The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" <sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup> The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup> But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup> After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. [NRSV John 2:13-22]

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

### **Sentence**

**God spoke these words and said, 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.'**

- ***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.***

**Gods foolishness is wiser than Human wisdom.**

**After, they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.**

Have you ever wondered why on earth someone is doing something, then only after they have finished, you realise the sense in their actions? God is always doing this. The Jews, and many of Jesus disciples thought Jesus had come to save them from the Roman oppression. They were second guessing. When Jesus said he would die and rise again they just did not get it, even Peter tried to council Jesus and was rebuked for his attempt. When Jesus died on the cross the 1-foot-thick temple curtain was torn in two. God's presence had left the building; there was to be a new dwelling place. The wisdom of God was to bring His presence into all who receive Him, His life in us. This is the presence of the Holy Spirit who dwells in those who turn from the destruction sin brings which holds the curse of death. It is only when we live our lives devoted to God that we begin to see just how significant the cross is. Now how smart is that? I think it is awesomely wise.



- **prayer-time** Now let us continue to offer our prayers for healing of the world; for those affected by coronavirus; for the continued rollout of the vaccine, 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.*** . John McCluskey ,

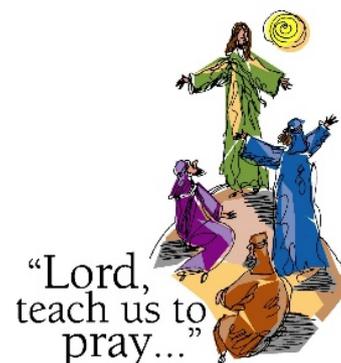
Jo and Dolores, Joyce, Fr Ted Newing ,and Peter Lynn, David, Ron & Ann; Pat Izabelle; Peta ; Mariette; Joanne; Peter G, Peter C; Nicholas B; Samantha; Fiona; Brenton; Sue; Brenda; Pat; Brendon; Betty; Bp David; Bill; David H; Marjorie; Diane; Jean; Mitchell and family; Carolyn; Angela; Carol; Shirley; Lucy Ann; Margaret, Lyn; 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***

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**Prayer of the Day**

Lord our God,  
by your Holy Spirit  
write your commandments upon our hearts  
and grant us the wisdom and power of the cross, s  
o that, cleansed from greed and selfishness,  
we may become a living temple of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 your phone or email or face time or SMS to keep in contact and share with others the promise of a brighter and better future in 2021.

