



**Second Sunday of  
Easter  
TABLE SERVICE**  
**Let us sit and watch Songs of  
Praise together on the ABC  
and then  
set the table for our Parish meal.**



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

As we continue to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, let us decorate our table with a symbols of new life, Set your meal for this day giving some thought to the presentation of your meal as a meditation on the importance of the time you are setting aside for worship.



If you are celebrating this meal without people physically present, please be aware that God Is With You.

In Mark 16:1-8 we often talk about doubting Thomas, but in this story Jesus did something to all the disciples that they were not expecting. They should have, because he promised that he would give them this gift. How he gave it was very significant. At first He said, peace be with you, as the father has sent me, so I send you, then he breathed on them and said receive the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that was God's breath of life in Adam. This is the same Holy Spirit that rose Jesus to life. Jesus imparted the Holy Spirit to his disciples. Now the life of God was in them and then He said, so I send you. They did go out to share the Good News as Jesus did and those who believed received the Holy Spirit's life within them. Being a followers of Jesus means we too receive his life giving Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the evidence within us that makes the Good News so very, very real.



- ***opening prayer — consciously drawing together the dispersed Parish community around your table***



Be still and silent.

Visualise in your mind, that you are celebrating Easter Day and sharing your Sunday service meal at the same time as others in your parish 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 reflect on the scriptures in our liturgical cycle of prayer for this Sunday.

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 4 beginning at**

**Verse 32**

32 Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. 33 With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. 35 They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. 36 There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). 37 He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet. [NRSV Acts 4:32-37]



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



How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

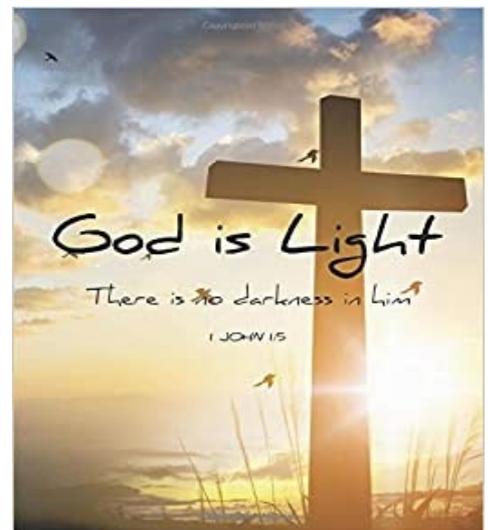
(Psalms 133:1 NIV)

**Psalm 133**

1 Behold how good and how lovely it is: when families live together in unity.  
 2 It is fragrant as oil upon the head, that runs down over the beard: fragrant as oil upon the beard of Aaron, that ran down over the collar of his robe.  
 3 It is like a dew of Hermon: like the dew that falls upon the hill of Zion.  
 4 For there the Lord has commanded his blessing: which is life for evermore.

**A reading from the First letter of John, Chapter 1 beginning at Verse 1**

1 We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life - 2 this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us - 3 we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. 5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; 7 but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.



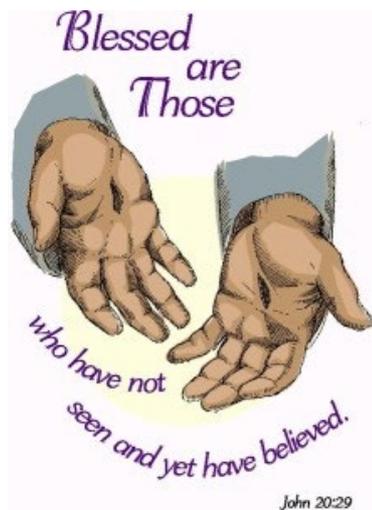
8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. 1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. [NRSV 1 John 1:1-2:2]

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

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, Chapter 20 beginning at verse 19**  
***Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."



26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name. [NRSV John 20:19-31]

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

**Sentence**

*'Peace be with you,' says the Lord. 'As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'*

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.

***Breath on us your abundant life.***

***But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.***

Have you ever told an amazing fact to someone and they have said to you, I don't believe it, prove it to me! Acts 4, 1 John 1 and Mark 16, all talk about being witnesses of Christ's resurrection. Have you ever realised that we are God's living evidence of Christ's resurrection? Some of us are beautiful at speaking to others about Jesus, but some of us are at a loss for words. In God's world neither are as important as having God's nature within us affecting everything we do. As we seek Him daily His presence is over our lives, and believe me the world notices. One cicada singing is a tiny voice, but a whole forest of cicadas makes all the trees throb. Just think, when we all come together to worship God filled with the life of the Holy Spirit, how awesome is His presence then. When someone who doesn't know the Lord walks into that environment then their lives can be turned upside down.



• **Spending some time in prayer**



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 ; remembering especially Lynn King having surgery this weekend, pray for a successful outcome and healing,

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 ,Joy and Betty and any others you wish to add.

**Prayer of the Day**

Risen Christ, whose absence leaves us in despair  
but whose presence is overwhelming:  
breathe on us with your abundant life,  
that where we cannot see  
we may have courage to believe  
that we may be raised with you. **Amen.**



**Conclude the meal by saying together the following prayer and our Easter declaration**

***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.***

***Christ is Risen! Alleluia!  
He is Risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

• **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. Share with others the hope of Easter, the resurrection and promise of Eternal Life.

