



**Third 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.

- Have you gone to a gathering and someone unexpected was there. Our first expression is "What are you doing here," it's a bit like this in Luke's story. In Luke this is another account of Jesus after His resurrection. Talk was now happening that others had seen Jesus. This was how Luke was expressing what he saw and felt. He tells us Jesus said, "Why do doubts arise in your hearts, touch me and see that I am not a spirit, give me fish to eat." But how do we touch Jesus now, How do we know he lives? It is not easy sometimes when troubles come and the journey of our faith seems to be a hard road, because we are human and pain and struggle and doubt come knocking. The disciples felt this too. Jesus never promised faith to be an easy road, but he came to the disciples in their desperate hope and helped them to believe.



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- **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 3 beginning at Verse 12

12 When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? 13 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. 14 But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, 15 and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. 16 And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. 17 "And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18 In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. 19 Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, 20 so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus,[NRSV Acts 3:12-20] *Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God***



Psalm 4

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness:
when I was hard-pressed you set me free;
be gracious to me now and hear my prayer.
Children of earth, how long will you turn my glory to my shame:
how long will you love with is worthless and see after lies?
Know that the Lord has shown me his wonderful kindness:
when I call to the Lord he will hear me.
Tremble, and do no sin: commune with your own heart
upon your bed and be still.
Offer the sacrifices that are right: and put your trust in the Lord.
There any many who say 'Who will show us any good?:
the light of your countenance, O Lord, has gone from us.'
Yet you have given my heart more gladness:
than they have when their corn, wine and oil increase.
In peace I will lie down and sleep:
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.



A reading from the First letter of John ,Chapter 1 beginning at Verse 2



2 Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; 16 for all that is in the world - the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches - comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 And the world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God live forever.1 See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of

God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. 3 And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. 4 Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6 No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, Chapter 24 beginning at verse 36

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

36b Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." 37 They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. 38 He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." 40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41 While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate in their presence.



44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you - that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46 and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things.

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

Sentence

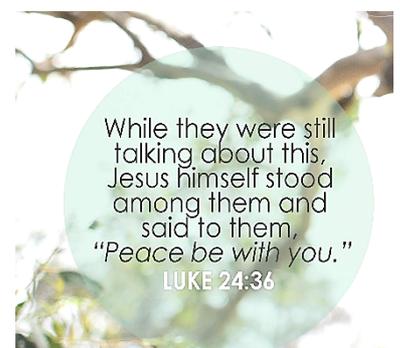
Turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

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.

You gave me room when I was in distress.

LORD has set apart the faithful for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him.

Jesus meets us as real people, he sees our hurts, our anger, and our failures and he sees within our hearts the hope we have to be safe in him. To want his approval that we are God's Children and as God's children to know He is proud of us. The disciples must have gone through all these emotions, shut up in a room wondering what would happen next. They were not trying to do anything to prove themselves good or to win God's favour. Then Jesus was there and he said "Peace be with you," but how many days did they wait until that



happened? The thing is they did wait and against the facts that said all was lost. Jesus meets us too in our hour of need, as we pray and ask him to be in our human struggles. Then one day we will realise he has indeed shown us his wounds given us His peace.

- **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 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 Bob and Kym and any others you wish to add.

Prayer of the Day

Lord of life,
by submitting to death, you conquered the grave;
by being lifted upon the cross, you draw all peoples to you; by being raised from the dead,
you restore to humanity all that was lost through sin:
be with us in your risen power,
that in word and deed we may proclaim
the marvellous mystery of death and resurrection.
For all praise is yours, now and throughout eternity. **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.

