



**Fourth Sunday of Easter
25th April 2021
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 ever had that prayer in your heart that you want to be like Jesus? To have his love and grace in all you do. He was our absolute example in everything we should be. However, he is the example that we should follow no matter how inadequate we feel about that. He took this example to the cross and we have to remind ourselves the cross was not just about dying there. On that cross he took the curse of sin, the condemnation of death upon himself for us all. In this absolute act of love God enables us to be like Jesus. It is the condemnation that drags us down and says your are not good enough that Jesus destroyed. And God showed us all on that cross just how precious He knows we are. Jesus is the ultimate good shepherd.
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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 4 beginning at Verse 5



⁵ The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹ This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'¹² There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved." [NRSV Acts 4:5-12]

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

Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He will make me lie down in green pastures: and lead me beside still waters.
- 3 He will refresh my soul: and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:

for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me.

- 5 You spread a table before me in the face of those who trouble me: you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.
- 6 Surely your goodness and loving-kindness will follow me all the days of my life:

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.



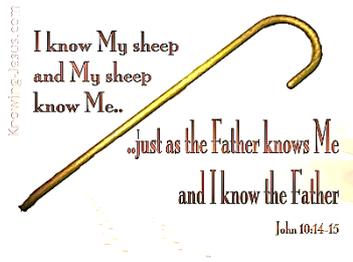
A reading from the First letter of John, Chapter 3 beginning at Verse 16



¹⁶ We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us - and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷ How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹ And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²² and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us. [NRSV 1 John 3:16-24] Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John,
Chapter 10 beginning at verse 11

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.



¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away - and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father." [NRSV John 10:11-18]

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

Sentence

'I am the good shepherd,' says the Lord. 'I know my own and my own know 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.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want (I have no other need)

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

Jesus said he knows His own and His own know Him. This happens when we embrace not only what He has done for us, but also through what He has done for us we can embrace all that Jesus is. We come to the cross and this is our deliverance, but we do not stay there, we follow Jesus with a longing to get to know him deeper and deeper. Our lives are to honour him and in doing so, we lay down our own lives and he shows us how to be like Him. This is what it means when the scripture says, No greater love has someone than he lay his life down for another. laying down our lives for Jesus is only half the action. This is our invitation for God to fill us with His love and mercy for all others, as the Holy Spirit works His transforming grace within us. •



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,

Kym and Bob, 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

Jesus, good shepherd of the sheep,
by whom the lost are sought and guided into the fold:
feed us and we shall be satisfied,
heal us and we shall be whole,
and lead us that we may be with you,
where you live and reign with the Father
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever 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.

