



**Fifth Sunday of Easter  
2<sup>nd</sup> May 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.

**LOVE AND ALL ITS PIECES**

Would you let your garden become a tangled mess, overgrown with weeds? Would you accept that your flowers did not bloom so well? Would you ask your friends to come and see your neglected garden? In John 15 Jesus is telling us that God is our gardener, that we are grafted onto Jesus. We are in Him and He is in us. Have you asked yourself just how does God become the gardener of our soul? The answer is because we allow the nature of Jesus to be connected into us. As we abide in Him, we become more like Him. God observes this relationship, and he looks for two things, fruit and dead wood. He sees how our souls are nourished as we drink form all His virtues. From this nourishment we produce God's virtues as His fruit. The things that do not thrive are the parts of our lives that were corrupted and they die because they are no longer being fed. God prunes these off so that we remain something He can show off to the whole world.



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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**

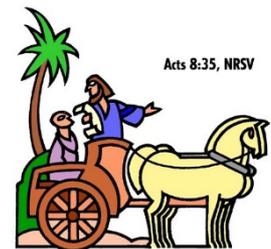


Let us reflect on the scriptures in our liturgical cycle of prayer for this Sunday.

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 8 beginning at Verse 26*

<sup>26</sup> Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' <sup>31</sup> He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' <sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' <sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. [NRSV Acts 8:26-40] Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**

**Philip ... proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.**



### **Psalm 22:26-32**

<sup>26</sup> From you springs my praise in the great congregation:

I will pay my vows in the sight of all that fear you;

<sup>27</sup> The meek shall eat of the sacrifice and be satisfied:

and those who seek the Lord shall praise him - may their hearts rejoice for ever!

<sup>28</sup> Let all the ends of the earth remember and turn to the Lord:

and let all the families of the nations worship before him.

<sup>29</sup> For the kingdom is the Lord's: and he shall be ruler over the nations.

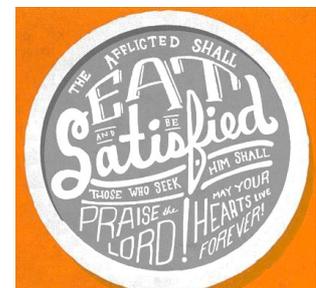
<sup>30</sup> How can those who sleep in the earth do him homage:

or those that descend to the dust bow down before him?

<sup>31</sup> But he has saved my life for himself: and my posterity shall serve him.

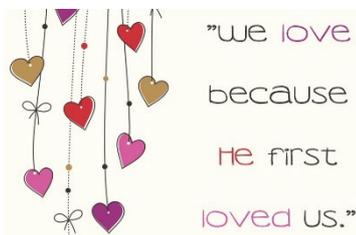
<sup>32</sup> This shall be told of my Lord to a future generation:

and his righteousness declared to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.



### **A reading from the First letter of John, Chapter 4 beginning at Verse 7**

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.



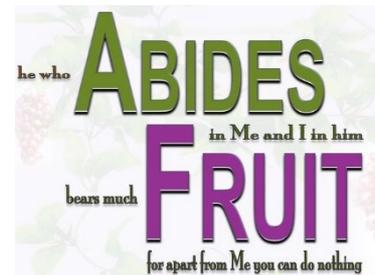
<sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have

seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. <sup>15</sup> God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup> Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup> The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. [NRSV 1 John 4:7-21] Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, Chapter 15 beginning at verse 1**

### **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>1</sup> 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. <sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. [NRSV John 15:1-8] This is the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



### **Sentence**

'In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

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.

### **If you abide in me my words are in you. The poor shall eat and be satisfied**

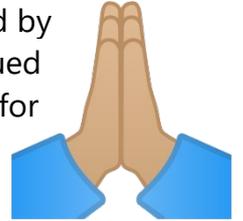
If our lives are full of the virtues of God and we combine all these virtues what do you think we would have? The answer is love as it should be. Just like fruit, God's virtues develop and ripen over time and usually not all at once. In 1 John 4 it speaks about love, but love is the culmination of all God's good fruit ripening on every branch in our lives. From this, we can choose the fruit that is needed to demonstrate God's love to others. The fruit of forgiveness, or patience, or encouragement, or joy are there in our souls, ripe to share. Then we know we are connected into God's love through the love of Jesus.



We have assurance that we truly are the work of the Holy Spirit. Those who hold things against others will always have fear; the fear of being hurt. Love is like a shield that takes hurt and deflects it to God who has enabled us to then wrap it up with His Spirit of grace and mercy.

### ***Spending some time in prayer***

Now let us continue to offer our prayers for healing of the world; for those affected by coronavirus; remembering especially the peoples of India and Brazil, 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, Jean Nutt awaiting results in hospital, Bob undergoing chemo and radiation treatment, Kym, John, Jo and Dolores, Joyce, Fr Ted, 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; Mary, Lyn; Irene; Linda; Tina; Wendy; Chris; Trevor; Liz; Tristan & Trish S; Lainie and Nicholas; John Carroll; Jac Bishop, Joan; Joanie; Andrew; Kerrie; Mary, Colin, Cathy, Carol, Allison, Ann, Jean, Joy and Betty and any others you wish to add.

### **Prayer of the Day**



O God, form the minds of your faithful people, that we may love what you command and desire what you promise, so that, amid the many changes of this world, our hearts may there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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.

