



## **EASTER DAY SUNDAY 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 celebrate Easter Sunday let us define the occasion by decorating our table with a variety of bright flowers or Easter eggs and/or a medium size stone (symbolising the stone that has been rolled away and new life, Set your meal for this day. And give some thought to the presentation of your meal as a meditation on the importance of the time you are setting aside for worship. Make it pleasing to your eye.



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

The words death and resurrection go hand in hand in our Christian faith. Many of us wear a cross that signifies the breaking of the curse of sin and sins eternal consequence, death. Just as powerful is the empty tomb, Jesus is Risen. Jesus rose again by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is God incarnate and no power on earth or in the spiritual realms could kill Jesus the Christ. Where is the proof in our time that Jesus lives? He showed himself to 500, but that was 2000 plus years ago. He lives because we invite Him into every aspect of our lives, and He comes in. He lives because we invite him to heal and transform us so we are like him; and He starts this on our hearts by showing us His love. He lives because we now know that God is our loving Father; Jesus made that knowing happen. The evidence that He is alive, is because beyond words. In our hearts is that assurance that we belong to God, wrapped up in His mercy, secure in His grace; this is living His salvation.



- **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**

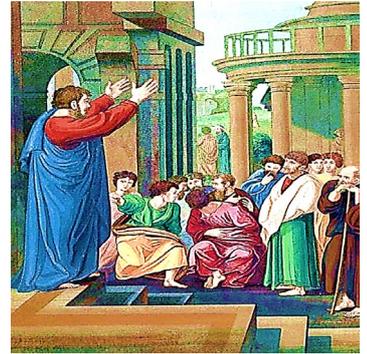
**Bless this food, both physical and spiritual.  
Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen,  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**



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

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 10 beginning at  
Verse 34**

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ - he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."



Hear the word of the Lord,

***thanks be to God***

**Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24**

- <sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:  
that his mercy endures for ever.
- <sup>2</sup> Let Israel now proclaim:  
that his mercy endures for ever.
- <sup>14</sup> The Lord is my strength and my song:  
and has become my salvation.
- <sup>15</sup> The sounds of joy and deliverance:  
are in the tents of the righteous.
- <sup>16</sup> The right hand of the Lord does mighty things:  
the right hand of the Lord raises up.
- <sup>17</sup> I shall not die but live:  
and proclaim the works of the Lord.
- <sup>18</sup> The Lord has disciplined me hard:  
but he has not given me over to death.
- <sup>19</sup> Open me the gates of righteousness:  
and I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.
- <sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the Lord:  
the righteous shall enter it.
- <sup>21</sup> I will praise you, for you answered me:  
and have become my salvation.
- <sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected:  
has become the head of the corner.
- <sup>23</sup> This is the Lord's doing:  
and it is marvellous in our eyes.
- <sup>24</sup> This is the day that the Lord has made:  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.



A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 15 beginning at Verse 1

1 Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, 2 through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you - unless you have come to believe in vain. 3 For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, 4 and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them - though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.



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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As



they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

For the Gospel of the Lord

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Sentence**

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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.

***Hold fast the message .... Unless you have come to believe in vain. He has been raised; He is not here.***

The disciples thought that all was lost. They thought this awesome guy, who had turned their lives upside down was gone. He did amazing things, and He taught a faith in God that was revolutionary and out of this world. They truly believed He was the Messiah, the Son of God, they witnessed it all. Now all they had was a body in an empty tomb. What is amazing is that



God meets us in our weaknesses, in our failures and when we are gazing into an empty tomb of hopelessness He says, don't look into that pit of despair, wait for me and I will meet with you and sup with you and I will put my Spirit within you. When Jesus did meet the disciples, He breathed on them. Just as he breathed life into Adam, He breaths His life into us and forever more we cry. He is Risen indeed, not because someone told us, but because He truly has come to us and has made Himself known to us. Thus we are also among the many who are His witnesses.

• **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 ; 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**

Brightness of God's glory,

whom death could not conquer nor the tomb imprison:

as you have shared our frailty in human flesh,

help us to share your immortality in the Spirit;

let no shadow of the grave terrify us,

and no fear of darkness turn our hearts from you.

Reveal yourself to us this day and all our days,

as the First and the Last, the Living One,

our immortal Saviour and Lord. **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.

