



Sixth Sunday of Easter 9th 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.

Is love enough? Or is there more to love that goes beyond what we can say or do. Jesus says that we are to love one another as he has loved us. But what does that mean? Jesus loved us so much he took on the curse of our sin and he died. Who is our Brother or Sister that we are supposed to love? Jesus points to the Samaritan man that was beat up and robbed. The Samaritans and Jews were culturally bitter enemies. Are we supposed to love someone that openly denigrates who we are? Our sin made us adversaries against God, and Jesus, God incarnate, came and took on himself all of our abuses. Have you ever thought why did he do this? To love a friend is easy, to love a neighbour is OK too, but when we love someone who hates us then this releases God's powerful mercy and grace.

WHEN YOU LOVE YOUR ENEMIES,
YOU REVEAL WHAT KIND OF GOD
OUR GOD IS.

First we ourselves do not become embittered and secondly through our forgiveness someone's life can be changed. As Christians we do not have a choice, this is God's command; After all God forgave us and this is the love in action we are called to. The miracle is, if we love our enemy then the enemy is our friend.

opening prayer —

consciously drawing together the whole Parish community around your table

Be still and silent. Visualise in your mind, that you are celebrating and sharing your Sunday service meal at the same time as others in your parish

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

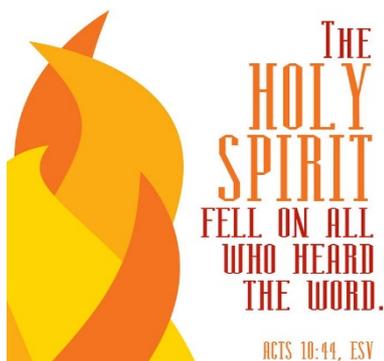


**Here, and throughout the world,
We adore you O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen**

**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 10
beginning at Verse 44**



44 While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, 46 for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 47 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' 48 So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days. [NRSV Acts 10:44-48]

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

Psalm 98

1 O sing to the Lord a new song: for he has done marvellous things;
2 His right hand and his holy arm: they have got him the victory.
3 The Lord has made known his salvation: he has revealed his just deliverance in the sight of the nations.
4 He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness towards the house of Israel: and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth: break into singing and make melody.
6 Make melody to the Lord upon the harp: upon the harp and with the sounds of praise.
7 With trumpets and with horns: cry out in triumph before the Lord, the king.
8 Let the sea roar, and all that fills it: the good earth and those who live upon it.
9 Let the rivers clap their hands: and let the mountains ring out together before the Lord;
10 For he comes to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.



A reading from the First letter of John, Chapter 5 beginning at Verse 1



1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, 4 for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. 5 Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 6 This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth. 7 There are three that testify: 8 the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these three agree. 9 If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. 10 Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. 11 And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. [NRSV 1 John 5:1-12]

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 9

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 I

have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 12 'This is my commandment, that you

love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love

than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 I do not call you servants

any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16

You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17 I am giving you

these commands so that you may love one another. [NRSV John 15:9-17]

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



Sentence

Jesus said, 'You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit.'

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 we receive human testimony: the testimony of God (the Spirit) is greater

And I appointed you to bear fruit, fruit that will last.



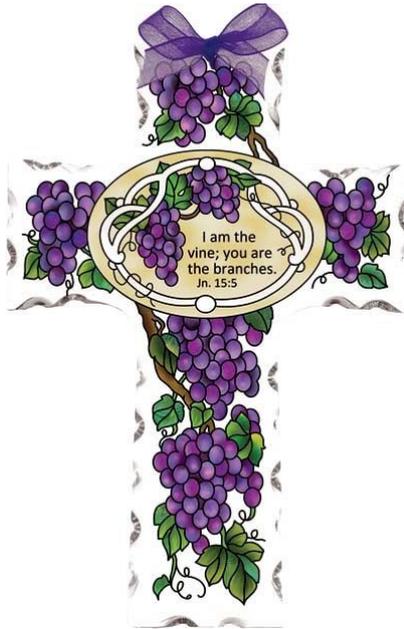
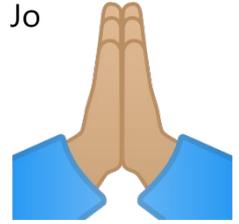
Perhaps we may think loving someone who has hurt us is a step too far, that we cannot seem to reach that point of forgiveness. Forgiveness does not excuse the wrong, or the accountability, but it can bring healing on both sides. God knows that our strength alone is weak, so he has sent us the Holy Spirit to enter into our struggles if we invite Him to do so. The point is that our hearts desire is to love God and not be hindered in that relationship. It is God in us, that from us, flows all the goodness that He is and is the testimony of His love. We pray for peace, and mercy and grace in the world, and God says, from you I will bring these things. Peter was astounded that Christian

Gentiles had received the gift of the Holy Spirit as He had. We need to understand that the Holy Spirit is the strength God has given us to be living examples of His love in so many ways.

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, 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 Bob, 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

Loving God,
your Son has chosen us
and called us to be his friends:
give us grace to keep his commandments,
to love one another,
and to bear fruit which will abide;
through him who is the true vine,
the source of all our life,
Jesus Christ our 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.

