



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

19th September 2021

**Let us watch Songs of Praise together
on the ABC and then set the table
for our shared meal.**



- **Setting our table for our Sunday lunch service.**

Sometimes we eat, in front of the TV either together or alone; we eat on the run; we eat out in restaurants or even in our car; but today we sit at a table that we have set for our Sunday lunch meal. It is our everyday altar of life-giving food.



As we worship at home today let us define the occasion by adding something special to our table. Give some thought to the presentation of our meal as a meditation on the importance of the time we are setting aside for worship. If you are celebrating this meal without people physically present, please be aware that **God Is With You.**

The Meaning Of Being Last

Have you been to a restaurant where the waiter is very engaging and efficient, and everyone is happy? That waiter's main objective is to serve in such a way that the needs of others are met though they may not even get thanks. At the end of the day, a wise manager will praise the efficient waiter because he knows the waiter's service is why customers return. Though the waiter's job may seem to be the least, the manager knows how important they are. In this Gospel reading Jesus is asking us to see ourselves as waiters serving His grace to all those we meet. This is the life God calls us into, so that His Joy and peace and love can abound without hinderance. He wants His church to be like this so that more people will come and dine with Him, because His people know how to serve.



- **opening prayer — consciously drawing together in our mind our Parish community around our table.** *Be still and silent. Visualise in your mind, those whom you invited to share with you. 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 read and reflect on our cycle of readings A reading from the book of Proverbs, Chapter 31 beginning at Verse 10**

10 A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.

11 The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.

12 She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.

13 She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands.

14 She is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from far away.

15 She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household

and tasks for her servant-girls.
 16 She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
 17 She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong.
 18 She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night.
 19 She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.
 20 She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy.
 21 She is not afraid for her household when it snows, for all her household are clothed in crimson.
 22 She makes herself coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple.
 23 Her husband is known in the city gates, taking his seat among the elders of the land.
 24 She makes linen garments and sells them; she supplies the merchant with sashes.
 25 Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.
 26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
 27 She looks well to the ways of her household,



and does not eat the bread of idleness.
 28 Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband too, and he praises her:
 29 "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all."
 30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
 31 Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.
 [NRSV Proverbs 31.10–31

Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God

Psalm 1

1 Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the ungodly:
 nor followed the way of sinners, nor taken their seat amongst the scornful.
 2 But their delight is in the law of the Lord:
 and on that law will they ponder day and night.
 3 They are like trees planted beside streams of water:
 that yield their fruit in due season.
 4 Their leaves also shall not wither:
 and look, whatever they do, it shall prosper.
 5 As for the ungodly, it is not so with them:
 they are like the chaff which the wind scatters.
 6 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand up at the judgement:
 nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
 7 For the Lord cares for the way of the righteous:
 but the way of the ungodly shall perish.



A reading from the letter of James Chapter 3 beginning at Verse 1

3 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ² For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³ If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴ Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small member, yet

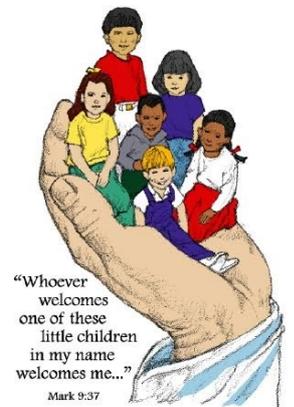


it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸ but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters,^[e] yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh. [NRSV James 3.1–12] Hear the word of the Lord, ***thanks be to God.***

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, Chapter 9 beginning at verse 30

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

³⁰ They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” ³² But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. ³³ Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” ³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.” [NRSV Mark 9.30–37]



This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sentence

Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.

.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.

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.

The last shall be first, is the very example Christ became. In dying for us He became the servant of all, so that we may live our lives with His presence. To be a servant of Christ, we need to first serve those who are weak and vulnerable, knowing that without Christ we cannot reach the souls of others. These are the people who have nothing but who will give back more than we can give. Like children who respond with so much love when love is shared. The principle is the same in Christ’s Church, to lay our wants aside, so that with Christ we can create a family giving out His grace and love, with that love resulting in God’s Joy and peace amongst us.



prayer-time Now let us continue to offer our prayers for healing of the world; remembering especially the peoples of Afghanistan; all who seek refuge in far off places; all who suffer from the result of war; for those affected by coronavirus, especially those in NSW and Victoria 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. We continue to pray alongside, Sylvia’s family, Ruth recovering from surgery, Joannie, Miriam, Matthew, Kym and Bob, Howard, Izabelle; Peta; Mariette; Joanne; Peter G, Peter C; Samantha; Fiona; Brenton; Sue; Pat; Brendon; Bill;



David H; Diane; Jean; Carolyn; Allison; Brenda, Angela; Carol; Shirley; Lucy Ann; Margaret, Lyn; Irene; Linda; Tina; Wendy; Chris; Trevor; Liz; Tristan & Trish S; Carole and family; Peter, Eleni and Nicholas; Jac Bishop, Joanie; Andrew; Kerrie; David J; Claire; Jean; Dan Thomas; Trish; Claire; Fr Graham & Catherine; & Blair; Aileen; Ann; Leslie Rogan; Marion McCall and family; Stephen, Bill, Eileen Cook; Tessa; Demetri; Yvonne Scrutton; Gabrielle *and any others we wish to remember.*

Let us say the Lord’s Prayer Together.
Our Father

Prayer of the Day

God and Father of all,
 you have taught us through your Son
 that the last shall be first,
 and have made a little child the measure of your kingdom:
 give us the wisdom from above,
 so that we may understand that in your sight
 the one who serves is the greatest of all.
 We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



Conclude the meal with the following prayer together.



**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.**

• Intentional connection beyond your home

After our Table Service spend some time reaching out to others, a member of your family, or someone who does not have family, or a friend, someone in your community 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, Let God guide you to the person or persons with whom you should connect. Contact them. Start a conversation: How have you been keeping, What about this lovely spring weather or I was thinking of you and decided to call...

