



## SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

26th 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.**

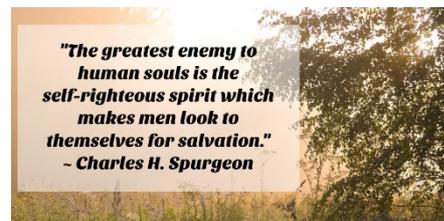
Sometimes we eat, in front of the TV either together or alone; we eat on the run; we eat out in restaurants or even in our car; but today we sit at a table that we have set for our Sunday lunch meal. It is our everyday altar of life-giving food.



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.**

### Considering Others in God's Kingdom.

This Gospel Reading today seems quite harsh, but Jesus always talked in metaphors. First the disciples seemed concerned that others were doing the work Jesus gave the disciples could do; were they actually jealous? What is important, who does the work or that the work of the Lord is being done? Self-importance can be a real hinderance that causes others to stumble. To stop others from doing God's work even a child of no status is a dreadful thing. Amputation will not stop sin in the heart, if self-righteousness discriminates, then it deforms the soul causing others to stumble. These are the sins we need to allow God to deliver us from.



- **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 Esther, Chapter 7 beginning at Verse 1**

<sup>1</sup> So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. <sup>2</sup> On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." <sup>3</sup> Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. <sup>4</sup> For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for

this damage to the king.”<sup>5</sup> Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?”<sup>6</sup> Esther said, “A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

<sup>9</sup> Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, “Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high.” And the king said, “Hang him on that.”<sup>10</sup> So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

<sup>20</sup> Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far,<sup>21</sup> enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year,<sup>22</sup> as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

[NRSV Esther 7.1–6, 9–10; 9.20–22]

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



### **Psalm 124 [Page 361 APBA]**

1 If the Lord had not been on our side,  
now may Israel say:

if the Lord had not been on our side,  
when our enemies rose against us,

2 Then they would have swallowed us alive:  
when their anger was kindled against us.

3 Then the waters would have overwhelmed us,  
and the torrent gone over us:

the raging waters would have gone clean over us.

4 But praised be the Lord:

who has not given us as a prey to their teeth.

5 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler:  
the snare is broken, and we have gone free.

6 Our help is in the name of the Lord:

who has made heaven and earth.

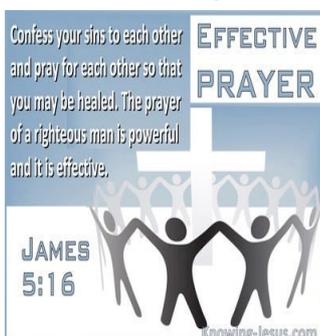


### **A reading from the letter of James Chapter 5 beginning at Verse 12**

<sup>12</sup> Above all, my beloved do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “Yes” be yes and your “No” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

<sup>13</sup> Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup> Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray

over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup> Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.



<sup>19</sup> My brothers and sisters if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, <sup>20</sup> you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

[NRSV James 5.12–20]

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 38  
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



<sup>38</sup> John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." <sup>39</sup> But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup> Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

<sup>42</sup> "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup> If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup> And if your

foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup> where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

<sup>49</sup> "For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup> Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another." [NRSV Mark 9.38–50]

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

***praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

**Sentence**

*Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can it be seasoned? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with 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.*

**Have salt in yourselves and be at peace with one another.**

**The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective; Elijah was a human being like us.**

In James it says, confess your sins to one another and you will be forgiven, even better, you will be healed. In context it is saying, we need to be honest with one another. The life he describes, praying for each other's needs and rejoicing together, brings healing of the soul. This is the salt Jesus talks about, as we are open to the Spirit that convicts our souls with fire to put aside the stumbling blocks, so that our saltiness gets better. James makes one more point, we are to look out for each other and in doing so, we will not wander and become lost. Our help is in the name of the Lord, the snare is broken, and we have escaped from the snare of the fowlers.

**Pray For One Another**



**To Deliver From Sin**

**prayer-time** Now let us continue to offer our prayers for healing of the world; remembering especially the all those suffering from the effects of natural disasters and victims of violence; 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, Miriam, seriously ill following a stroke, Sylvia’s family, Ruth recovering from surgery, Joannie, 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**

O God,  
 your Son has taught us  
 that those who give a cup of water in his name  
 will not lose their reward:  
 open our eyes to see those who are in need,  
 and teach us to set no store by riches and earthly rewards,  
 so that, in surrendering ourselves to serve you in your children,  
 we may labour for the treasure that endures;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



“Lord,  
 teach us to  
 pray...”

**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...

