



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

3rd October 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.**

. **God's unconditional Love Mark 10: 2-16**

Constantly throughout the bible God call us to examine our hearts. Jesus talks about the law with the Pharisees, the law of divorce had become distorted. He says a significant thing, "Because of your hardness of heart I wrote this commandment for you." In PS 139:23 David says a prayer for all of us, "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting." Is it any wonder that He turns to the children and says whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it. Jesus does not address divorce in the Pharisees question, he addresses the mind of the soul, it is trusting in what our Father has given us and living in this amazing grace that goes beyond the law.

- **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 Job, Chapter 1 beginning at Verse 11** There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. **2** One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD. **2** The LORD said to Satan,¹ "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." **3** The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and



upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason." ⁴ Then Satan answered the LORD, "Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives." ⁵ But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." ⁶ The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life." ⁷ So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸ Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes. ⁹ Then his wife said to him, "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die." ¹⁰ But he said to her, "You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

[NRSV Job 1.1; 2.1-10] Hear the

word of the Lord,

thanks be to God

Psalm 26 [Page 246 APBA]

1 Give judgement for me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity:
I have trusted in the Lord and not wavered.

2 Put me to the test, O Lord, and prove me: try my mind and my heart.

3 For your steadfast love has been ever before my eyes: and I have walked
in your truth.

4 I have not sat with deceivers: nor consorted with the hypocrites;

5 I hate the assembly of the wicked: I will not sit with the ungodly.

6 I wash my hands in innocence, O Lord: that I may go about your altar,

7 And lift up the voice of thanksgiving: to tell of all your marvellous works.

8 Lord, I love the house of your habitation: and the place where your glory dwells.

9 Do not sweep me away with sinners: nor my life with those that thirst for blood,

10 In whose hand is abomination: and their right hand is full of bribes.

11 As for me, I walk in my integrity: O ransom me and be favourable toward me.

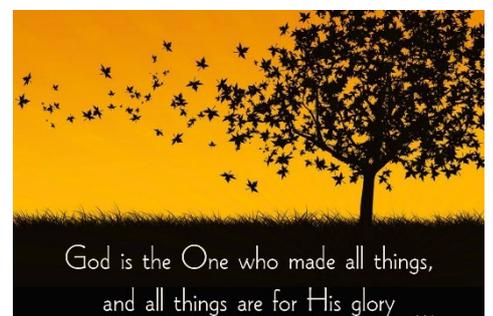
12 My foot stands on an even path: I will bless the Lord in the great congregation.

For your
steadfast
love is
before my
eyes, and I
walk in your
faithfulness.
Psalm 26:3



A reading from the letter to the Hebrews Chapter 1 beginning at Verse 1

1 Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son,^[a] whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³ He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains^[b] all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵ Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶ But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? ⁷ You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, subjecting all things under their feet." Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, ⁹ but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. ¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father.^[c] For this reason Jesus is



God is the One who made all things,
and all things are for His glory

not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

[NRSV Hebrews 1.1–4; 2.5–12]

Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, Chapter 10 beginning at verse 2

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

² Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" ³ He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" ⁴ They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." ⁵ But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶ But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' ⁷ 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸ and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." ¹⁰ Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹ He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹² and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." ¹³ People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the



disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

[NRSV Mark 10.2–16] This is the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sentence

Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter 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.

.What God has joined together, let no one separate

For the one who sanctifies and the those who are sanctified all have one Father.

In the unity between male and female, only they can become one flesh, the evidence of this is children. Despite genuine reasons for some to divorce, the ones that always suffer in divorce are the children. So the kingdom of God talks about our unity with God, a love relationship that is greater than filial love. The question is, is it only because of the law that we follow God because our hearts are not supple to receive His love; or is our love as a child accepting God unconditionally as He accepts us unconditionally.

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, recovering from 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

Loving God,
you have made us in your own image,
creating us male and female,
and you have consecrated the covenant of marriage
so that in it is signified the spiritual marriage between Christ
and his Church:
pour your grace upon all who are called to this holy state,
that, keeping their promise of faithfulness to each other,
they may reflect in their lives your love for us all;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 hope you are keeping safe and well or I was just thinking of you and decided to call...

