

## SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

28<sup>th</sup> November First Sunday in Advent

*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.



Today is the first Sunday in Advent, a time for reflection, preparation and anticipation of the coming of Jesus. Often Advent is a time of prayer, fasting and giving. So, as we worship at home today let us define the occasion by adding something special to our table, acknowledging 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**.

### **ALL JESUS PROMISES, HE KEEPS IN OUR HEARTS.**

Have you ever promised something for the future and nobody has forgotten? This reading today seems very dramatic and a bit troublesome. Jesus knew that for his followers, trouble was coming. The key to this reading is when Jesus says, heaven and earth will all pass away, but my words will not pass away until they have taken place. Jesus keeps his promises to those who trust him. We can not time the things of heaven but the things of heaven can live within our hearts. King David knew what being faithful to God meant. We cannot get lost if we stay on His paths and when we are on His pathway, our hearts hear Him speaking to us.



***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 Jeremiah, Chapter 33 beginning at Verse 14**

14 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness." Hear the word of the Lord, thanks be to God



### **Psalm 25 1-10 [page 244 APBA]**

1 In you, O Lord my God, have I put my hope: in you have I trusted, let me not be ashamed, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

2 Let none who wait for you be put to shame: but let those that break faith be confounded and gain nothing.

3 Show me your ways, O Lord: and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in the ways of your truth, and teach me: for you are the God of my salvation.

5 In you have I hoped all the day long: because of your goodness, O Lord.

6 Call to mind your compassion and your loving-kindness: for they are from of old.

7 Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: but according to your mercy think on me.

8 Good and upright is the Lord: therefore will he direct sinners in the way.

9 The meek he will guide in the path of justice: and teach the humble his ways.

10 All the paths of the Lord are faithful and true: for those who keep his covenant and his commandments.

In you,  
LORD MY GOD,  
I put my  
TRUST.

*Psalms 25:1*

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians, Chapter 3 beginning at Verse 9**

9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? 10 Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.

12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.

13 And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

[NRSV 1 Thessalonians 3.9–13] Hear the word of the Lord,  
**thanks be to God.**



## **The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, Chapter 21 beginning at verse 25 Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

25 "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. 26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

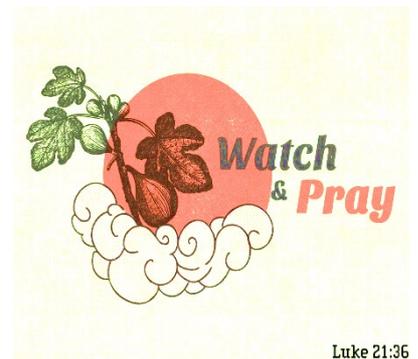
29 Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; 30 as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. 31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. 32 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

34 "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, 35 like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

37 Every day he was teaching in the temple, and at night he would go out and spend the night on the Mount of Olives, as it was called. 38 And all the people would get up early in the morning to listen to him in the temple. [NRSV Luke 21.25–38]

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

**praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



### **Sentence**

**Stand up and raise your heads; your redemption is drawing near..** *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.*

### **Lead me in your truth, and teach me**

#### **Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down**

Jesus predicts a torrid time for the new believers. How easy do we give up when struggles come. It is in these hard times Jesus is imploring us to hang onto his words, to put our trust in Him even if we are suffering. Often there are circumstances we cannot change, so what does it mean to trust in his word? Where there is strife, He can be our peace, where there has been pain in our souls, He can be our inner healing, when we are under pressure, He can help us relax and be patient. Jesus will return one day, but in the meantime, He has a place within our souls where all His promises do come true.

### **MY GOD**

WAY MAKER  
MIRACLE WORKER  
PROMISE KEEPER  
LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS



***Please pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer.*** We continue to pray alongside, Ted & Joyce and Miriam; Ann W, Ruth , Lynn , Joannie, Matthew, Kym and Bob, Izabelle; Peta; Mariette; Joanne; Peter G,

Peter C; Samantha; Fiona; Brenton; Sue; Pat; Brendon; Bill; David H; Diane; Jean; Carolyn; Allison; 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 Jones; Claire; Jean; Dan Thomas; Trish; Claire; Fr Graham & Catherine; & Blair; Aileen; Ann; Tom & Nick; Stephen, Bill, Eileen Cook; Tessa; Yvonne Scrutton; Sylvia; Gabrielle, Brenda; Judith: Gabrielle; and *any others we wish to remember..*

**Let us say the Lord's Prayer Together.**

**Our Father .....**

**Prayer of the Day**

Eternal God,  
you have taught us that the night is far spent  
and the day is at hand:  
keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom,  
and make us strong in faith,  
so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth,  
we may go out joyfully to greet him;  
and, with all your saints, may worship you for ever;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for 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. 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 changing weather or hope you are keeping well, or I was just thinking of you and decided to call ....

