



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

5th December 2021 Second 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 Second 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.**

WHERE DOES THE WAY OF SALVATION BEGIN?

Have you thought, just what is the Salvation of the Lord? Some think it's a pass into heaven, a get out of goal card. People baptise their babies with this assumption. The truth is Salvation is so much more than this. Jesus came to live amongst humanity, just like the Lord's prayer we pray; Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Jesus came to dwell with us so that we could live a life according to his will, He teaches us a whole new way of living. He made a way that is everlasting as we invite His presence to continue to dwell within us. As we walk this kind of faith, salvation becomes a daily living thing and we know that Christ has made strait our paths. We are the fulfilment of Zechariah's song.



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***

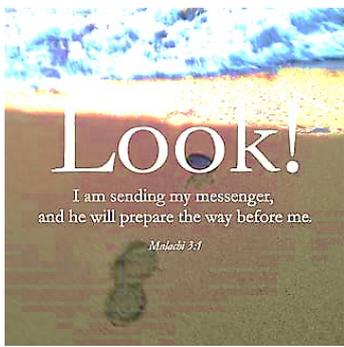
Bless this food, both physical and spiritual. Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen, In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

- **Let us read and reflect on our cycle of readings**

Old Testament reading from Malachi Chapter 3 verses 1-14

1 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and

who can stand when he appears?



For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; 3 he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. 5 Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts. 6 For I the

Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished. 7 Ever since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, "How shall we return?" 8 Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, "How are we robbing you?" In your tithes and offerings! 9 You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me—the whole nation of you! 10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. 11 I will rebuke the locust for you, so that it will not destroy the produce of your soil; and your vine in the field shall not be barren, says the Lord of hosts. 12 Then all nations will count you happy, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts. 13 You have spoken harsh words against me, says the Lord. Yet you say, "How have we spoken against you?" 14 You have said, "It is vain to serve God. What do we profit by keeping his command or by going about as mourners before the Lord of hosts? Hear the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Song of Zechariah

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who has come to his people and set them free;
the Lord has raised up for us a mighty saviour; born of the house of his servant David,
Through the holy prophets, God promised of old;
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,
To show mercy to our forebears;
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham;
to set us free from the hands of our enemies.
Free to worship him without fear;
holy and righteous before him, all the days of our life.
And you child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation;
by forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion our God;
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death;
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.



New Testament Reading from Philippians Chapter 1 verses 1-11

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord

Jesus Christ. 3 I thank my God every time I remember you, 4 constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, 5 because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. 9 And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight 10 to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, 11 having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.



Hear the word of the Lord Thanks be to God

A reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke Chapter 3 beginning at the first verse. Glory to you lord Jesus Christ

1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "



For the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you lord Jesus Christ

Sentence

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1.78-79

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.

Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.

Serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness.



Did you know that Salvation happens only by the work of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The amazing thing is, all God asks of us, is to love and obey Him, the rest of the work is in the hands of the Three in One. Isaiah, Malachi, Zechariah and Luke all say it is He who makes the way of salvation. Paul says, The one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion. As we continue to dwell in the Way of Christ, we can actually watch Him

transforming our lives as we see the grace of God not only working in our lives but in others too. As we walk in the way, we see that the way is Jesus Himself, Salvation begins with knowing that Jesus dwells with us continuously because "Jesus is Salvation."

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.*

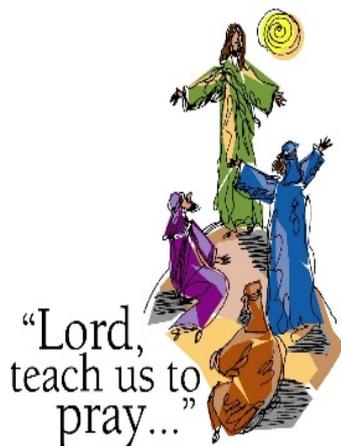


Let us say the Lord's Prayer Together.

Our Father

Prayer of the Day

God of our salvation,
you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin;
keep our hearts watchful in holiness,
and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us.
We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose Day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.. 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. 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

