



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

Sunday 20th February 2022 - Epiphany 7

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.



Let us prepare our table with thanksgiving and prayer add those special items to remind us of God's precious gift to humankind. If you are celebrating this meal without people physically present, please be aware that **God Is With You.**

LOVE AND MANY ENEMIES

Have you ever thought what is love in the context of this reading and who is our enemy? Luke is writing to a fledgling Christian church; once accepted in the Jewish synagogue, now they were declared outcasts and dangerous. On the other side, the Romans had not long before destroyed Jerusalem and the temple and were now turning against Christians because they did not honour Roman gods. The Christians were persecuted on many sides and now Luke writes to the church and says love these persecutors. Christian's who loved their enemies, even when facing death, lead many to see a God that was real, and they too believed.

LOVE
your enemies -
DO GOOD
to those who hate you
BLESS
those who curse you
PRAY
for those who mistreat you

- **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 Genesis, Chapter 45 beginning at Verse 3

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine

has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son



Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'

¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him. [NRSV Genesis 45.3–11, 15 Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**

Psalm 37:1-11, 40-41

- 1 Do not vie with the wicked: or envy those that do wrong;
- 2 For they will soon wither like the grass: and fade away like the green leaf.
- 3 Trust in the Lord and do good: and you shall dwell in the land and feed in safe pastures.
- 4 Let the Lord be your delight: and he will grant you your heart's desire.
- 5 Commit your way to the Lord: trust him, and he will act.
- 6 He will make your righteousness shine as clear as the light: and your innocence as the noonday.
- 7 Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him: do not be vexed when someone prospers, when they put their evil purposes to work.
- 8 Let go of anger and abandon wrath: let not envy move you to do evil.
- 9 For the wicked shall be cut down: but those who wait for the Lord shall possess the land.
- 10 In a little while the ungodly shall be no more: you will look for them in their place, but they will not be found.
- 11 But the meek shall possess the land: and enjoy the abundance of peace.
- 40 Deliverance for the righteous shall come from the Lord: he is their strength in time of trouble.
- 41 The Lord will help them and deliver them: he will save them from the ungodly and deliver them, because they come to him for refuge.



A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 15 beginning at Verse 35



³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ³⁹ Not all flesh is alike, but there is one flesh for human beings, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰ There are both heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one thing, and that of the earthly is another. ⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; indeed, star differs from star in glory. ⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from

heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. ⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

[NRSV 1 Corinthians 15.35–50] Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, Chapter 6 beginning at Verse 27

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁷ "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.^[a] Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

[NRSV Luke 6.27–38]

This is the Gospel of the Lord,
Christ.

praise to you Lord Jesus



Sentence

Love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. You will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

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.

Bless those who curse you, Pray for those who abuse you.

You sold me here, but God sent me before you to preserve life.

When we are hurt the choice to show grace, shows the love of God, is contrary to our natural self-justification. We don't have to tolerate abusive behaviour, but as Paul reminds us we are both flesh and spirit. It is our souls that we need to protect most of all. But Why? Physical and emotional wounds can be traumatic, but a wounded soul needs Spiritual medicine. Only the Spirit of God can bring healing. Joseph knew this and despite all the abuse he was given He clung onto God's promises to him and ultimately, when his enemies needed him, he showed them love and kindness. The consequences of his actions preserved life for generations.



prayer-time Now let us continue to offer our prayers for healing of the world; remembering all those who are in need 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, Catherine Cooling and family, Kym, Melissa and Sam, Ted & Joyce and Miriam; Ann W, Ruth , Lynn, Joannie, Matthew, 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; Peter, Eleni and Nicholas; Jac Bishop, Joanie; Andrew; Kerrie; David Jones; Claire; Jean; Dan Thomas; Trish; Claire; Ann; Tom & Nick; Stephen, Bill, Eileen ; Tessa; Yvonne; Sylvia; Gabrielle, Brenda; Judith: and *any others we wish to remember..*

Let us say the Lord's Prayer Together.

Our Father

Prayer for Epiphany 7

God of compassion,
keep before us the love you have revealed in your Son,
who prayed even for his enemies.
In our words and deeds
help us to be like him, through whom we pray,
Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. **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, make contact with others who you have not seen or contacted for a while, those who may have missed seeing their families and loved ones because of the current COVID restrictions, those who may be alone as visiting is difficult especially for those in residential care. 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.

