

- **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 as we begin the Lenten Season, 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.**

WE SHALL SEE HIM

This reading in Luke 13 is very difficult to understand unless you understand the history of Israel. Even before Jesus time, here on earth, God's prophets have been calling his people to return to him. They not only ignored the prophets they killed them too. So what did the prophets say that made the people so angry. They cried, repent of your wicked ways and return to God. He loved them and included us like a mother hen brooding over her chicks. The call of the prophets was not about temple rituals, sacrifices and incense, but with a pure heart wanting to follow God's ways that bring unfailing peace and security; with this the people prospered. Those who seek to please themselves never find peace.



- **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:

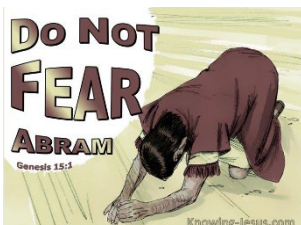
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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 the Book of Genesis Chapter 15 beginning at Verse 1



15 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"^[a] ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your

heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the Lord; and the Lord ^b reckoned it to him as righteousness. ⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. ¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, [NRSV Genesis 15.1–12, 17–18]

Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God

Psalm 27

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;

whom then shall I fear?:the Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes,
come upon me to devour me: they shall stumble and fall.

3 If an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not be afraid: and if war should rise against me,
yet will I trust.

4 One thing I have asked from the Lord, which I will require:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

5 To see the fair beauty of the Lord: and to seek his will in his temple.

6 For he will hide me under his shelter in the day of trouble:
and conceal me in the shadow of his tent, and set me high upon a rock.

7 And now he will lift up my head: above my enemies round about me.

8 And I will offer sacrifices in his sanctuary with exultation:
I will sing, I will sing praises to the Lord.

9 O Lord, hear my voice when I cry: have mercy upon me
and answer me.

10 My heart has said of you, 'Seek his face ':your face, Lord, I will seek.

11 Do not hide your face from me: or thrust your servant aside in
displeasure;

12 For you have been my helper: do not cast me away or forsake me,
O God of my salvation.

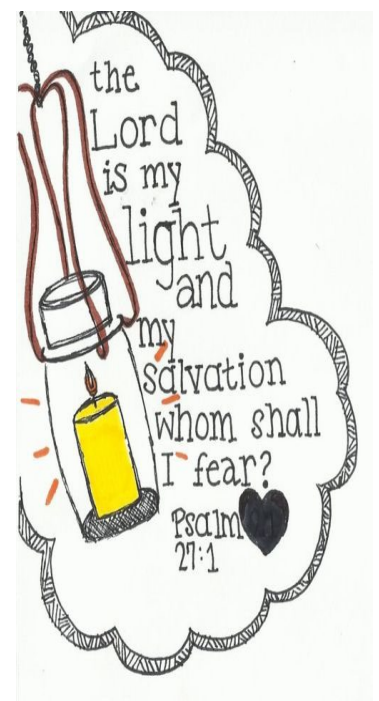
13 Though my father and my mother forsake me: the Lord will take me up.

14 Teach me your way, O Lord: and lead me in an even path, for they lie in wait for me.

15 Do not give me over to the will of my enemies: for false witnesses have risen against me,
and those who breathe out violence.

16 But I believe that I shall surely see the goodness of the Lord:
in the land of the living.

17 O wait for the Lord; stand firm and he will strengthen your heart:
and wait, I say, for the Lord.



A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians, Chapter 3 beginning at Verse 17

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.



⁴ ¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

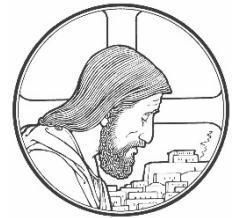
[NRSV Philippians 3.17–4.1]

Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God.

***The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, Chapter 13 beginning at Verse 31
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³² He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.



[NRSV Luke 13.31–35]

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sentence

Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

***Their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame
Come," my heart says, "seek His face!***

Have you ever thought if God is the same and never changes, then what does he expect of us? Jesus knew that our worship needed to come with a pure and contrite heart. Only he could make this happen through his death and resurrection from the cross. Hearts that rebel against God's outreach to them, are hearts that prefer the pleasures of this earth. Our Joy and peace, even in troubled times is because we know the security of God's presence with us. Therefore, when we come to the Lord we shall see Him because we know Him.



prayer-time

Now let us continue to offer our prayers for healing of the world; especially the people of Ukraine who need your support and comfort, and Gods peace and strength, those now refugees from their country separated from family who



need your compassion, those who have lost loved ones in conflict or violence. We also ask for comfort, courage and grace for all those affected by Natural Disasters, especially the people in Queensland and New South Wales following the recent floods with loss of life, livelihoods, and places of safety.

We continue to pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer. 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 Transfiguration

God of our ancestors,
whose chosen servant Abraham
was given faith to obey your call
and go out into the unknown:
endow your Church with such faith
that we may follow you with courage;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and 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, take the time to contact other people you know, especially those on their own or separated from family and friends. 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.

