



- ***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 worship during 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.**

BEING FED BY GODS GARDENER

Have you ever planted a tree and it has not thrived? It sits dormant and you don't know if it will live or die. In this reading the gardener sees that the fig tree needs nourishment. Paul tells the Corinthians that our nourishment comes from Christ. He is the one that is the gardener that feeds us with the nourishment we need. We do not need to look at disasters superstitiously as if God is punishing people. Without Christ we all fall short of God's righteousness, and we can do nothing to save ourselves but to let Him give us the strength we need, even in times of trouble. Repentance is a living journey that opens us to receive from God, rejecting the ways of selfishness to serve God selflessly.



- ***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 Isaiah, Chapter 55 beginning at Verse 1

1 Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

3 Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

4 See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

5 See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

6 Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

7 let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,

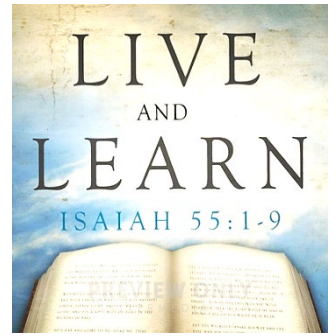
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts. [NRSV Isaiah 55.1–9]

Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God



Psalm 63.1-9

1 O God, you are my God:
eagerly will I seek you.

2 My soul thirsts for you, my flesh longs for you:
as a dry and thirsty land where no water is.

3 So it was when I beheld you in the sanctuary:
and saw your power and your glory.

4 For your unchanging goodness is better than life:
therefore my lips shall praise you.

5 And so I will bless you as long as I live:
and in your name will I lift my hands on high.

6 My longing shall be satisfied as with marrow and
fatness:

my mouth shall praise you with exultant lips.

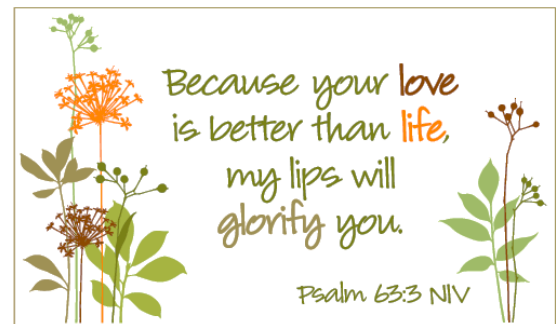
7 When I remember you upon my bed:
when I meditate upon you in the night watches,

8 How you have been my helper:

then I sing for joy in the shadow of your wings,

9 Then my soul clings to you:

and your right hand upholds me.



A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 10 beginning at Verse 1

10 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

6 Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. 7 Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." 8 We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and

GOD IS FAITHFUL

WHO WILL NOT SUFFER YOU TO BE TEMPTED ABOVE THAT YE ARE ABLE

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twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. 10 And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. 13 No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

[NRSV 1 1 Corinthians 10.1–13 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 1 Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

13 At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. 4 Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

6 Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7 So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' 8 He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

[NRSV Luke 13.1–9]

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Sentence

'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts,' says the Lord.

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.

Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

The question to ask ourselves is; is my faith life producing the kind of gifts that will enable others to thrive? It's not about who is more righteous or who is the greater sinner. It is about allowing God's life to be evident in ours. As we allow ourselves to be fed by His word and be led by His

Spirit, we will grow steadfast and strong. Then when the owner/God returns, he will see good enriching fruit in our lives that is for the nourishment of others. When you bake a cake, it just doesn't happen, you take the ingredients and mix them together, these ingredients make the flavour appealing. As Christians we need to ask ourselves, is my flavour appealing to Christ and therefore, appealing to others?



prayer-time

Now let us continue to offer our prayers for healing of the world; especially the people of Ukraine who need our continued prayers, love, support and comfort, and Gods peace and strength, for all 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. John, Mary, Elizabeth, 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 Lent 3

O God, the fountain of life,
to a humanity parched with thirst
you offer the living water that springs from the Rock,
our Saviour Jesus Christ:
stir up within your people the gift of your Spirit,
that we may profess our faith with freshness
and announce with joy the wonder of your love.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of 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.

