

Sunday 7th August 2022 TABLE SERVICE

Let us sit and watch Songs of Praise together on the ABC and then set the table for our Parish meal.



Prayerful and intentional preparation for a meal

As we worship at home today let us 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.**



THE THIEF AND BEGGAR SERVANT



Isn't sad when we see what was once a thriving church being sold. Sometimes we struggle with what is the status quo. The expression, 'it will always be like this,' is not so. The struggle we have is that Church is a wonderful place to come and worship God. Tomorrow however, it may not be there. We grow old and generations leave. We try so hard to make everything around the church so presentable and wonderful but what if we have neglected to be presentable ourselves for the Glory of our Lord.

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.*

**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**

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah Chapter 1 verses 1, 10-20

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! ¹¹ What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt-offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. ¹² When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more; ¹³ bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation— I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. ¹⁴ Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them. ¹⁵ When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. ¹⁶ Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil,

¹⁷ learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed,
defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

¹⁸ Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord:
though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow;
though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land;

²⁰ but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**



Psalm 50 1-8 23

¹ The mighty one, God the Lord,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

² Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.

³ Our God comes and does not keep silence,
before him is a devouring fire,
and a mighty tempest all around him.

⁴ He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

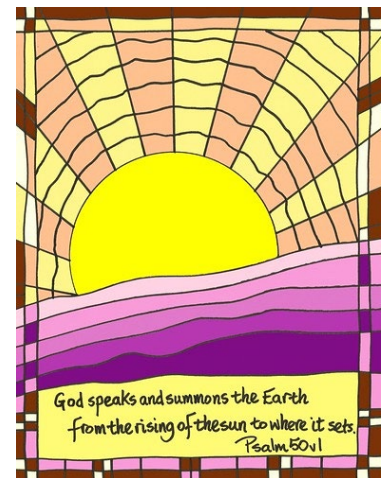
⁵ 'Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!'

⁶ The heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge.

⁷ 'Hear, O my people, and I will speak,
O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God.

⁸ Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;
your burnt-offerings are continually before me.

²³ Those who bring thanksgiving as their sacrifice honour me;
to those who go the right way, I will show the salvation of God.'



A reading from Hebrews Chapter 11 verses 1-3 & 8-16



11 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. ⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations,

whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, 'as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.' ¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them.

They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke Chapter 12 verses 32-40

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

³² 'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailling treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ³⁵ 'Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹ 'But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Sentence

Watch and be ready for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming

Let us now engage in some quiet reflection, or conversation and sharing, responding to the passages of scripture. We may like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

Do not be afraid little flock.

Instead, they were longing for a better country, a heavenly one.



Do you realise that Jesus is amongst us now? He has crept in like a thief and disguised as a servant and is serving those who choose to make Him their treasure. We serve our Lord in Faith because our hope is in Him, and our assurance comes from Him. Even though we see Him not, we know Him and we know we belong to His Kingdom. Tomorrow will change, but the things of God will always be. Therefore, our investment is in His Kingdom and not in the things we construct around us even if they are things of religion

prayer-time Now let us continue to offer our prayers and thanksgiving. We pray for healing of the world; Lord we ask for peace for those who need peace, reconciliation for those who need reconciliation and comfort for all



who don't know what tomorrow will bring, we pray for all those facing hunger and disease as famine threatens.

We continue to pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer: Susan and Frank, Mary and Margaret, Malcolm N, Jean N, Jo and John Mc, Father Ted and Joyce, Betty, Joy, David Mitchell family, Pat, Carolyn, Allison, Angela, Carol, Lucy Ann, Jean, Nathan, Peter, Alex, Kym, and Bob. Jac Bishop: Eileen Cook; Yvonne Scrutton; Brenda, and any others we wish to remember.....

Let us say the Lord's Prayer Together.

Our Father

Prayer for Sunday

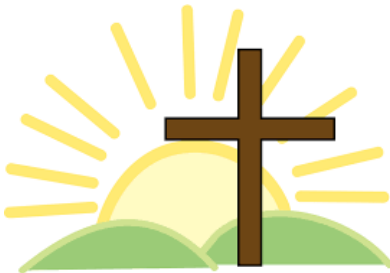
Kindle in our hearts Father the same faith that impelled Abraham to set out from his home and to live as a pilgrim in a foreign land.

As we, like him, look for the city that none but you can design and build, keep us watchful for your Son's coming, that we may be found faithful stewards of all that you have entrusted to us.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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. Start a conversation: How have you been keeping, what about this really cold weather, hope you are keeping warm and well or, I was as just thinking of you and decided to call. Let God guide you to the person or persons with whom you should connect.

