



Sunday 2nd October 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.**



ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE



It is interesting to see in this gospel, the significance of faith and the obedience of a slave. A slave does not question his master but does what is asked of him. We are like the slave, but with a benevolent master beyond description. He asks us to serve Him with our lives and as we submit to his Lordship over us, this is when we learn that he rewards us, not with the things of this earth, but with the things of His nature. It is He that builds up our faith as we learn to trust Him, becoming like Him, loving Him and obeying Him, knowing this is what we ought to do. Then anything is possible.

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

A reading from the book of Lamentation Chapter 1 verses 1-6

How lonely sits the city that once was full of people! How like a widow she has become, she that was great among the nations! She that was a princess among the provinces has become a vassal. She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks; among all her lovers she has no one to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they have become her enemies. Judah has gone into exile with suffering and hard servitude; she lives now among the nations, and finds no resting place; her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress. The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to the festivals; all her gates are desolate, her priests groan; her young girls grieve, and her lot is bitter. Her foes have become the masters, her enemies prosper, because the Lord has made her suffer for the multitude of



her transgressions; her children have gone away, captives before the foe. From daughter Zion has departed all her majesty. Her princes have become like stags that find no pasture; they fled without strength before the pursuer.

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

Psalm 137

- 1 By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept: when we remembered Zion.
- 2 As for our harps we hung them up: upon the trees that are in that land.
- 3 For there those who led us away captive required of us a song: and those who had despoiled us demanded mirth, saying 'Sing us one of the songs of Zion.'
- 4 How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?
- 5 If I forget you O Jerusalem: let my right hand forget its mastery.
- 6 Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth: if I do not remember you if I do not prefer Jerusalem above my chief joy.
- 7 Remember O Lord against the Edomites the day of Jerusalem: how they said 'Down with it down with it raze it to its foundations.'
- 8 O daughter of Babylon you that lay waste:
happy shall he be who serves you as you have served us;
- 9 Happy shall he be who takes your little ones: and dashes them against the stones.



A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy Chapter 1 verses 1-14

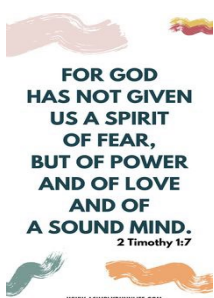
Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I am grateful to God — whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did — when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.

Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour Christ

Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us. Hear the word of the Lord., **thanks be to God.**

The Gospel according to Luke Chapter 17 verses 5-10

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ



The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

"Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'" The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



Sentence

Who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? But I am among you,' says the Lord, 'as one who serves. Luke 22.27

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.

**We have done only what we ought to have done.
Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony of our Lord.**



Enslaved as we were, by sin, God paid for our us to come into His house and serve him. Our salvation does not give us freedom to do whatever we want. We did not deserve this grace, this love. We once belonged to a merciless master that was leading us to death. Now we belong to one who gives us life and all that is needed in living for Him; never forgetting what we have been saved from. The more we serve Him the more we know the wonder in serving Him. Paul encourages Timothy how to serve God and build up that faith in the Spirit of power and love that enables self-discipline. Then anything is possible,

prayer-time Now let us continue to offer our prayers and thanksgiving.

Father God, we pray for our world today. We pray for peace and hope to abound. Many have been troubled by natural disasters, conflict, and the results of a global pandemic. In challenging times, help us turn to you as our source of strength and hope. Merciful Lord, we offer a prayer for your peace to be with all those who have suffered and continue to do so. Amen.



We give thanks for the life work and witness of Dr Edward (Ted) Sandercock , who passed away suddenly last Saturday, pray for his wife Wendy and their family and friends as they grieve.

God of love and mercy, embrace all those whose hearts today overflow with grief, unanswered questions and such a sense of loss. Grant them space to express their tears. And hold them close through the coming days. Rest in Peace Ted. Amen.



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 Pentecost 17

Faithful God,

have mercy on us your unworthy servants,

and increase our faith, that, trusting in your spirit's power to work in us and through us,

we may never be ashamed to witness our Lord

but may obediently serve him all our days;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever Amen

Conclude the meal with the following prayer



***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 think about other people you know, especially those on their own, in ill health, grieving or missing family and friends.

You can do this in prayer or by contacting them and starting a conversation:

How have you been keeping?, what about this changing weather? are you looking forward to summer? or, I was as just thinking of you and decided to call.

Let God guide you to the person or persons with whom you need to connect with.

