



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

18th June 2023

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

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.

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.**



We are amazing beings, capable of terrible destruction and yet capable of being an incredible blessing with or without God. But just imagine if a soul chose that wherever they went, they chose to blessing plugged into God's power. That would certainly blow the socks off others. Jesus told His disciples they had his authority to be this kind of blessing. To be an avenue of healing and hope, the power to lift curses and oppression and to bring God's peace to wherever they stayed. We too can live this authority today.

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 Genesis, Chapter 18 beginning at Verse 1¹ The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, "My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest

yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on - since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. ⁹ They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ¹⁰ Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" ¹³ The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴ Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁵ But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh." [NRSV Genesis 18:1-15]

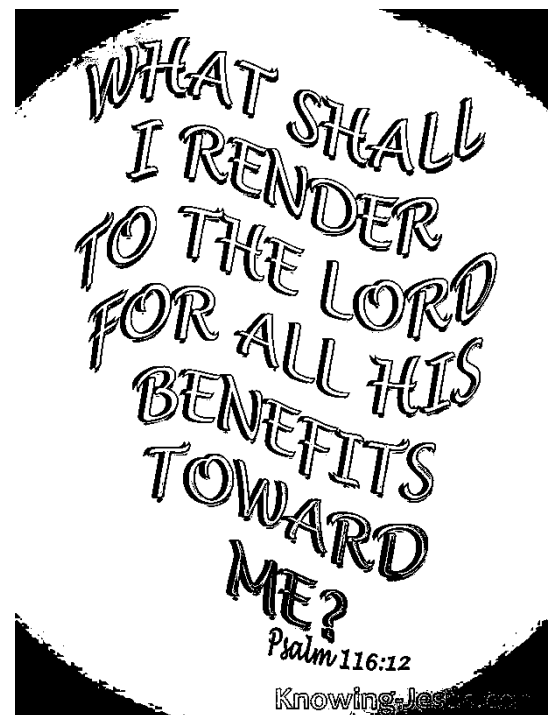


Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God

Psalm 116:1-2, 11-18

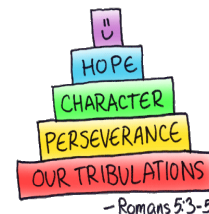
- 1 I love the Lord, because he heard my voice:
the voice of my supplication;
- 2 Because he inclined his ear to me:
in the day that I called to him.
- 11 How shall I repay the Lord:
for all his benefits to me?
- 12 I will take up the cup of salvation:
and call upon the name of the Lord.
- 13 I will pay my vows to the Lord:
in the presence of all his people.
- 14 Grievous in the sight of the Lord:
is the death of his faithful ones.
- 15 O Lord, I am your servant,
your servant and the child of your handmaid:
you have unloosed my bonds.
- 16 I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving:
and call upon the name of the Lord.
- 17 I will pay my vows to the Lord:
in the presence of all his people,
- 18 In the courts of the house of the Lord:
even in your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the Lord.



A reading from the Romans, Chapter 5 beginning at Verse 1

¹ Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings,

knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.



⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. [NRSV Romans 5:1-11] Hear the word of the Lord, ***thanks be to God.***

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, Chapter 9 beginning at verse 35 Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

³⁵ Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."



¹Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. ⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. [NRSV Matthew 9:35-10:8]

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sentence

We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand. Romans 5.1

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Is anything too wonderful for the LORD?

The awesome thing is this, being a blessing is so very uncomplicated. It is the way of faith, trusting that God will enable us to be so. It just needs the desire in us to be this. So being a blessing is as natural as a bird in flight. It doesn't think about how it fly's, it just does. Jesus sent His disciples out to set people free from their afflictions. What we don't see in this story is the ripple effect, how many others reaped the consequences of God's kindness and grace. Faith is also trusting that the pebble of blessing we drop into the ocean can and will touch so many more.

• **prayer-time**



Now let us continue to offer our prayers for healing of the world; especially for those affected by natural disasters, war and conflict; for family; for members of the parish and wider community, for the life and ministry of the Church, for encouragement in our journey of faith. We pray for all those who were injured or lost their lives during the recent bus crash interstate. We pray for healing and comfort for those who are injured, and for grace to surround those who grieve.

We continue to pray for those in our parish asking for prayer. Pat V David, Brenda, Joanie, Allison, Pat F, Jo , Jan, Joy I, Ann W, , Takoohi, Leanne, Daniella, Joyce and Ted, Mary R, Jac Bishop; Eileen Cook; Yvonne Scrutton; Brenda; Ted & Joyce; Catherine Cooling; Ursula Pridham; Trish McD; Barbara Webber; Tom Arnold; Nicholas & Ben; Sue & Frank Thomas; Gordon Russell; Emily and her family; Trish Simon; Christina and any others we wish to remember, either silently or aloud.

Let us say the Lord's Prayer Together. Our Father

Prayer of the Day

All-powerful God,
in Jesus Christ you turned death into life,
and defeat into victory:
increase our faith and trust in him,
that we may triumph over evil,
in the strength of the same 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 the Table Service, take the time to contact other people you know, especially those on their own or separated from family and friends. Make sure they are well, or see if they would appreciate a visit. Let the Holy Spirit guide you to the person or persons with whom you should connect. Pray for them. Contact them. Start a conversation. How have you been keeping, what about this changing weather or hope you are keeping well, was just thinking of you and decided to call.

