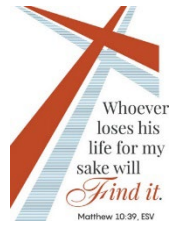




SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE 25th June 2023
Let us sit and watch Songs of Praise together on the ABC
and then set the table for our Parish meal.



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.**



There is something innate in humanity to identify what is good and wholesome against that which is corrupt and damaging. Our natural tendency is to nurture healthy things that benefit all things in creation. Matthew shakes up the mindset of believers by pointing out the fact that even though God loves you in the most intimate detail, if you have Christ as your Lord then His light in your life will inadvertently expose the darkness in places, this is the sword he mentions. There are some that won't like this light and will even try to destroy it betraying all that is good.



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 21, verses 8-21

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a

skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to



Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 86 verses 1-10, 16-17

1 Incline your ear to me O God and answer me:

for I am poor and in misery.

2 Preserve my life for I am faithful:

my God save your servant who trusts in you

3 Be merciful to me O Lord:

for I call to you all the day long.

4 O make glad the soul of your servant:

for I put my hope in you O Lord.

5 For you Lord are good and forgiving:

of great and continuing kindness to all who call upon you.

6 Hear my prayer O Lord:

and give heed to the voice of my supplication.

7 In the day of my trouble I call upon you:

for you will surely answer.

8 Among the gods there is none like you O Lord:

nor are there any deeds like yours.

9 All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you:

O Lord they shall glorify your name.

10 For you are great and do marvellous things:

and you alone are God.

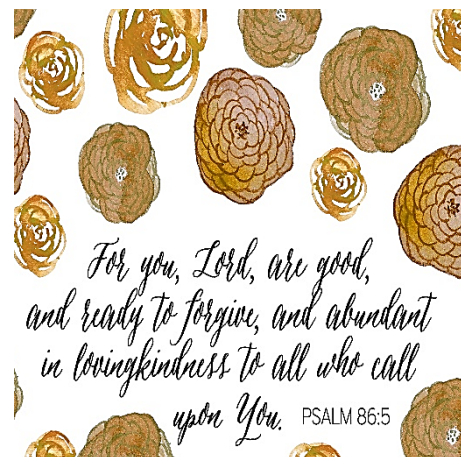
16 Turn to me and be merciful give your strength to your servant:

and save the child of your handmaid.

17 Show me some token of your goodness:

that those who hate you may see it and be ashamed

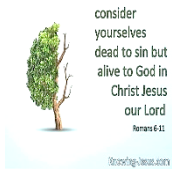
because you Lord are my helper and my comforter.



A reading from the Letter to the Romans Chapter 6, verses 1-11 What then are we to say?

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into

Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we



might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves

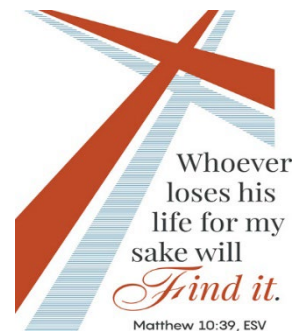
dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew Chapter 10, verses 24-39 Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! “So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. “Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



Sentence

Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for Jesus’ sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life

The Christians Matthew wrote to were facing persecution, even betrayal from their own families. They lived counter cultural for creations sake. Throughout this reading Jesus reassures us not to fear, but to be a standard. This doesn't mean we mount white chargers and attack everything evil.

Matthew explains, that having a passion for Christ above all else is enough. It makes us as obvious as if we are shouting from the roof tops. Our love for Him enables his likeness to shine in us and draw others to this healing love. It breaks control by condemnation, and so conflict and betrayal will come because we carry this freedom; it's the cross we bear for choosing the love of God. In this, is an innate knowledge, of the peace we have that our souls are safe in God's grace. It's the life we find by surrendering our own lives to Him. •



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 have been affected by the recent disasters in France, Honduras and other areas of risk or conflict. 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

Prayer of the Day Gracious God, we who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death: we pray that, as you raised him from death, so by the power of the Holy spirit we may live the new life to your glory, knowing ourselves to be dead in sin but alive for you in Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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.



