



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE 23rd July 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**.



In order to bring about good in this world people form associations so as to build and meet whatever need their vision is for. Associations need to function and be managed and so people of various skills are given responsibilities. Its a fact that in any association formed there must be people politics, where people politics is there are some who are blind to the vision. They only see the association as something to have control over. In this reading Matthew talks about God's church in His kingdom / His association. The citizens of His kingdom are all who put their trust in Jesus. Even here some people do not see the hope God has given them. They only want to turn something spiritually awesome into a religion made up of men's rules. These kind of people are the weeds in Matthews field. Their motives devalue the association God formed for the healing hope over all creation. All things in God are of Spiritual significance.

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. 28:10-19a



Jacob left Beersheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending

and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place — and I did not know it!' And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.' So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

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

Psalm 139:1-11, 23-24 —

O Lord you have searched me out and known me:
you know when I sit or when I stand you comprehend my thoughts long before.
2 You discern my path and the places where I rest:
you are acquainted with all my ways.
3 For there is not a word on my tongue:
but you Lord know it altogether.
4 You have encompassed me behind and before: and have laid your hand upon me.
5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me:
so high that I cannot endure it.
6 Where shall I go from your spirit:
or where shall I flee from your presence?
7 If I ascend into heaven you are there:
If I make my bed in the grave you are there also.
8 If I spread out my wings towards the morning:
or dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
9 Even there your hand shall lead me:
and your right hand shall hold me.
10 If I say 'Surely the darkness will cover me:
and the night will enclose me'.
11 The darkness is no darkness with you
but the night is as clear as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike.
23 Search me out O God and know my heart:
put me to the proof and know my thoughts.
24 Look well lest there be any way of wickedness in me:
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

Search me, O God,
and know my heart!
Try me and know
my thoughts!

PSALM 139:23



A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans. 8:12-25 Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,



but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ — if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 a

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" Then Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!'



The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sentence

You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Psalm 86.15

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.

The righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

It is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

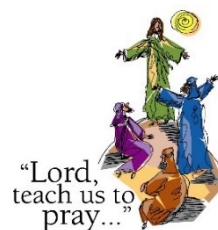
In the Romans reading Paul understands human politics very well. He brings it to the personal. Though it is our desire to allow God to have his way in us, we have a tendency to want to take

over. Yet, Paul sees that when we let the Spirit work in our hearts that fleshly selfish nature begins to die. The more we invite the Spirit of Christ to lead us in life, the more we know we belong to an association not made by men but by God himself. Then the vision of His kind of salvation for this world becomes clearer. Faith is trusting that when subjected to his way of life, we become entwined into his spiritual action, bringing restoration to this real and wounded world.

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, both natural and those inflicted by others. Those suffering from the heat waves across Europe and USA, for those killed and injured during the tragic shooting in Auckland 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 Melissa and family.,Georgia (Sunaras Mum). 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

Saving God,

in Jesus Christ you opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. who lives and reigns with 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.

