



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE 30th 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**.



As a tiny boy I did not understand that fire could burn. I could see it and feel its warmth. It wasn't until I touched it that I understood and respected it.

A tiny seed becomes a great tree, a little bit of yeast is all that is needed for a days worth of flour in a bakery. The kingdom of Heaven is not the seed or the yeast, its in the creative action of the Spirit that makes us grow as His children. All the work we can do is ineffectual compared to possessing the kingdom of heaven. It is such a precious thing to have in our lives its like the two men who sold all they had to gain the treasure and the pearl.



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 29:15-28

Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?' Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the, younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger

daughter Rachel.' Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.' So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then



Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel

Jacob said to Laban, 'Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.' So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, 'What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?' Laban said, 'This is not done in our country - giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.' Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Hear the word of the Lord. T h a n k s be to God.

Psalms 105:1-11 — A.P.B.A. Page 332

1 O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name: tell among the peoples what things he has done.

2 Sing to him O sing praises: and be telling of all his marvellous works.

3 Exult in his holy name: and let those that seek the Lord be joyful in heart.

4 Seek the Lord and his strength: O seek his face continually.

5 Call to mind what wonders he has done: his marvellous acts and the judgements of his mouth.

6 O seed of Abraham his servant: O children of Jacob his chosen one.

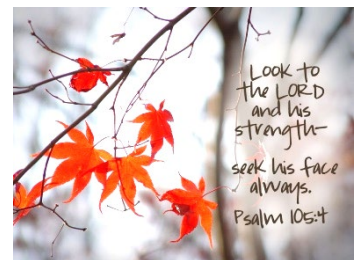
7 For he is the Lord our God: and his judgements are in all the earth.

8 He has remembered his covenant for ever: the word that he ordained for a thousand generations.

9 The covenant that he made with Abraham: the oath that he swore to Isaac,

10 And confirmed it to Jacob as a statute: to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

11 Saying 'I will give you the land of Canaan: to be the portion of your inheritance'



A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who

justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels,

nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Hear the word of the Lord. T h a n k s be to God.



The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 13:44-58 a
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.' When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place. He came to his hometown and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?" And they took offence at him. But Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honour except in their own country and in their own house." And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.

The Gospel of the Lord P r a ise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Sentence

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8.38-39

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.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Jesus is saying belonging to the Kingdom is worth giving up everything we have. But the kingdom of heaven is beyond explaining. To understand it we have to allow it to touch our souls. By entering into it we begin to understand its power and authority. It is only dwelling in Heaven's realm that our spiritual life grows. We are gaining an understanding and respect that is ever growing and changing us into the likeness of Christ. Our nature takes on his nature and we become like our Lord, the high king of heaven. Jesus said two men sold all they had. Are we prepared to give Him everything to inherit this jewel of His love for us?



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, 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

O God, the fount of wisdom,
 you have revealed to us in Christ the hidden treasure
 and the pearl of great price:
 grant us your Spirit's gift of discernment, that,
 in the midst of the things of this world,
 we may learn to value the priceless worth of your kingdom,
 and be ready to renounce all else for the sake of the precious gift you offer.
 We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of 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.

