



**SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE 10th September
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**.



Any association has to function well, this means operating under a set of guidelines. Some people, either with or without good conscience, at times assert their own agendas. We've all done this. That's life, and in congregations today, it is no different than 2000 plus years ago.



The Gospel today is a lesson in managing people politics but with mercy and an open door for reconciliation. The context in this reading is not so much about someone who may have done something wrong. More so, it is about operating in an incredible grace to enable restoration to happen.

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 Exodus. Chapter 12, verses 1-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at



twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Hear the word of the Lord...

thanks be to God.

Psalm 149

1 O praise the Lord and sing to the Lord a new song:

O praise him in the assembly of the faithful.

**2 Let Israel rejoice in him that made him:
let the children of Zion be joyful in their king.**

3 Let them praise him in the dance: let them sing his praise with timbrel and with harp.

**4 For the Lord takes delight in his people:
he adorns the meek with his salvation.**

5 Let his faithful ones exult in his glory:
let them sing for joy upon their beds.

**6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouths:
and a two-edged sword in their hands,**

7 To execute vengeance on the nations:
and chastisement upon the peoples,

**8 To bind their kings in chains:
and their nobles with fetters of iron,**

9 To visit upon them the judgement that is decreed:
such honour belongs to all his faithful servants Praise the Lord.



A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans. Chapter 13, verses 1-10



Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgement. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing. Pay to all what is due them — taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due. Owe no one anything,

except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbour as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew Chapter 18, verses 10-20
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus said to his disciples: "Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. What do you



think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost. "If another member of the

church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The Gospel of the Lord...

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sentence 'Where two or three are gathered in my name,' says the Lord, 'I am there among them.' Matthew 18.20

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.

If he listens to you, you have regained your brother.
The LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory.

We live under such an amazing grace in God's love, even when we don't deserve it. Knowing



this, makes it so important to operate in this grace ourselves. This means that we are not quick to condemn someone. We should always give room for those who have made an error to learn from their mistakes. The whole of Matthew 18 is about this. In v12 the lost sheep is someone in the church who is struggling in faith needing encouragement and support, not criticism or ostracism. And in this God rejoices.

prayer-time Now let us continue to offer our prayers and thanksgiving. We pray for healing of the world; Lord we ask for peace for those who need peace, reconciliation for those who need reconciliation and comfort for all who don't know what tomorrow will bring, we pray for all those in any form of distress because of the natural disasters around the world due to floods, fire and storm.



We pray 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 continue to pray for those in our parish asking for prayer, 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

Go before us, O Lord,
and further us with your continual help,
that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you,
we may glorify your holy name,
and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life;
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, who maybe unwell, or recovering.. Ask how they are, 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, are you OK, or hope you are keeping well, was just thinking of you and decided to call.

