

SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE 17th 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**.



We have all done something that has caused a negative outcome to another. When we understand the consequences and say sorry, we are saying sorry from our hearts. If they forgive us, we have a sense of relief. This is because our friendship is sustained. The Israelites saw sin as a deficit in humanity that affects our friendship with God. Lying, stealing and so on are the consequences of sin.

This parable shows us that God takes on our debts against Him. He forgives us no matter how unrepayable we think the debt is. It is He that restores us; never has He forsaken us.

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 14:19-31



The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their

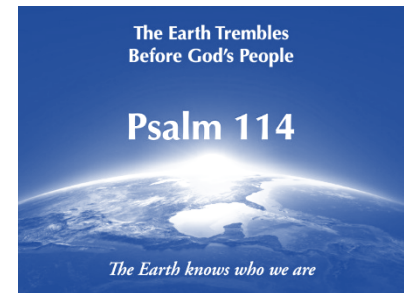
chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them



remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses. Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 114 —

- 1 When Israel came out of Egypt:
and the house of Jacob from among a people of an alien tongue,
- 2 Judah became his sanctuary: and Israel his dominion.
- 3 The sea saw that, and fled: Jordan was driven back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams: and the little hills like young sheep.
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled: O Jordan, that you were driven back?
- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams: and you little hills like young sheep?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord: at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8 Who turned the rock into a pool of water: and the flint-stone into a welling spring.



A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans. Chapter 14:1-14



Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own Lord that they stand or fall.

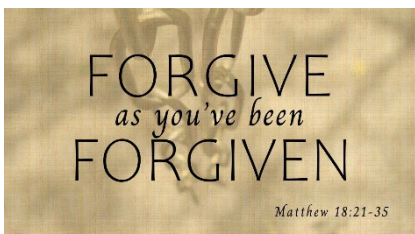
And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God. Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that

nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew Chapter 18 verses 21-35

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who



wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his Lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the Lord of that slave released him and forgave

him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their Lord all that had taken place. Then his Lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his Lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

Sentence 'If you, O Lord, should note what we do wrong, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. Psalm 130.3

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.

As far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

When his fellow servants saw what had happened, (his unforgiveness) they were greatly distressed,

To live under such an amazing grace as God's reparation for our sin is almost incomprehensible. We too need to live with this same grace and mercy towards others. Unforgiveness not only harms ourselves, the consequences of unforgiveness harms others too. It destroys our bond with the one who is absolute in forgiveness. It robs our hearts of hope because our unforgiveness robs hope from others. (See the Genesis 50 reading) This is why we ask God to be the judge of our hearts if we truly want to let God have His will in our lives. Forgiveness is a power that heals others while healing the user. Unforgiveness is a power that destroys others while destroying the user. Forgiveness needs to be a living part of who we are, not a tool to use whenever. But we need God's help.



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, Helen and Colin, 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,
you call your Church to witness
that in Christ we are reconciled to you:
help us so to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may turn to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
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, 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 lovely spring weather, are you OK, or hope you are keeping well, was just thinking of you and decided to call.

