



**SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE 8<sup>th</sup> Oct 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.**



This Gospel is about God's calling to all of us. Would you believe it, His plan is that we become a blessing to all. Its that simple. He even gives us the provisions to be this. It is also a warning that when religion thinks it can take over from God then all religion is unpalatable fruit. Matthew warns the church saying the builders of religion reject the stone that is the only true foundation. In other words they put themselves in Jesus place. They actually believe they can do the work of the Holy Spirit. In faith all we have is from God. From this comes the real fruit He wants us to produce.

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.**

First Reading A reading from the book of Exodus. 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work. Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour. When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses,



"You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

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

Psalm 19 —

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.

3 They have no speech, they use no words no sound is heard from them.

4 Yet their voice[b] goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

5 It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

6 It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

8 The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.

The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous.

10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.

11 By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

12 But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

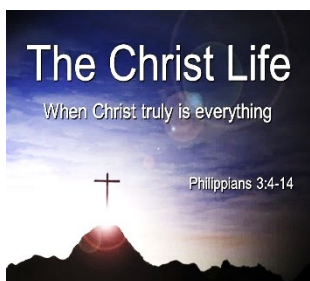
13 Keep your servant also from wilful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

14 May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer



A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians 3

Finally, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is not troublesome to me, and for you it is a safeguard. Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of those who mutilate the flesh! For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh — even though I, too, have reason for



confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For

his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his

own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. Only let us hold fast to what we have attained. Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew Chapter 21 verses 33-46**

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus said to the chief priests and leaders of the people: "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them,



saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Sentence** Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, let us press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 3:13b-14**

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.

**Not having a righteousness of my own ...but one that comes through faith in Christ.  
The kingdom of God will be .... given to a people who will produce its fruit.**



Jesus talks about the production of fruit. This is the outcome of being a blessing as God planned. It always brings positive results. When this happens the one being a blessing to others, is also blessed. It can be very catchy. So, God's plan is for a society that grows blessing others, especially those who need it. When we share with others as Jesus taught and showed us, it can only generate such things as inner healing, Spiritual security, a sound mind, forgiveness, empathy, kindness.

All these things and more are Christ's virtues and put together they express His likeness, His love. The love He imparts to all who desire it and want to share it.

**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, Pat Foord, recovering in hospital from a fall 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**

Almighty God,  
your son Jesus was the stone rejected by the builders,  
and, by your doing, he has been made the chief cornerstone:  
grant that, by the power of his Spirit working in us,  
we may become living stones built into your dwelling place,  
a temple holy and acceptable to you;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and 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 lovely spring weather, are you OK, or hope you are keeping well, was just thinking of you and decided to call. ....

