



2ND SUNDAY OF Advent

SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

10th Decer 2023 Second Sunday in Advent

**Let us watch Songs of Praise together
on the ABC and then set the table
for our shared meal.**



- **Setting our table for our Sunday lunch service.**

Sometimes we eat, in front of the TV either together or alone; we eat on the run; we eat out in 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. Give some thought to the presentation of our meal as a meditation on the importance of the time we are setting aside for worship... As we celebrate on this, the second Sunday in Advent, let us define the occasion by adding something special to our table that reminds us of God's peace, which is there for all.



If you are celebrating this meal alone please be aware that God Is With You.



Prepare ye the way of the Lord, Repent of your sins and make straight your paths. John the Baptist simply calls Israel to do what God has always called His people to do. One day the Messiah will be among us and you'd better be ready. Many believed he'd be a revolutionary, others hoped He'd become the new King of Israel. But no one except John knew He came to be the Lord of our souls. Falible humanity now had the oportunity to have the infalable lead us through life. Repentance of sin and making our way straight, is all about being prepared to recieve what He has for us. And

John says it plainly, to baptise us with the Holy Spirit.

Sent from my Galaxy **opening prayer — 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 prophet Isaiah Chapter 40 verses 1-11

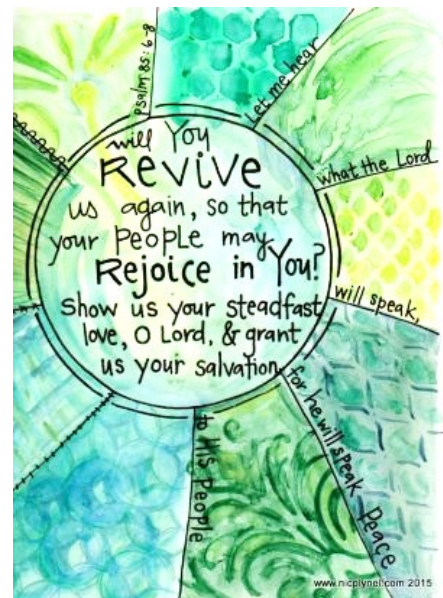


Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A

voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

1 O Lord you were gracious to your land:
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
2 You forgave the iniquity of your people:
and covered all their sin.
8 I will hear what the Lord God will speak:
for he will speak peace to his people
to his faithful ones whose hearts are turned to him.
9 Truly his salvation is near to those that fear him:
and his glory shall dwell in our land.
10 Mercy and truth are met together:
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;
11 Truth shall flourish out of the earth:
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
12 The Lord will also give us all that is good:
and our land shall yield its plenty.
13 For righteousness shall go before him:
and tread the path before his feet.



A reading from the second letter of Peter Chapter 3 verses 8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and Godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire" But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.



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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark Chapter 1 verses 1-8 Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptised you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



Sentence

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together. *Luke 3:4; Isaiah 40:5a*

Let us now engage in some quiet reflection, or conversation and sharing, responding to the Gospel passage. We may like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

Conduct yourselves in holiness and godliness as you anticipate and hasten the coming of the day of God.

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.



John baptised the baptism of repentance, symbolic of letting God wash us clean. This is not so much about sin, but about opening our hearts to receive God's grace for us against sin. So, what is Jesus' baptism of the Spirit about and why does John make this point. The Baptism in the Spirit is just as important as water baptism is today. Being emerged and filled in God's Spirit unlocks the power of God's creativity in our lives. From darkness He brings His light, from woundedness He brings His healing, from scars of

shame He installs His likeness into our very nature.

First is repentance to receive His power, then it is being empowered to be His image-bearers. Salvation is a living thing.

prayer-time Now let us continue to offer our prayers and thanksgiving. We pray for healing of the world; We pray for all those affected by the terrible violence in Israel and Gaza and the ongoing suffering of all those affected. We pray that both sides will work towards a new cease fire and the return of all hostages. God, bring restraint to both sides that they may continue their efforts to work together to find a peaceful solution.

🙏 God of peace, be with all those who live in fear and danger. Heal those wounded by hate and conflict. Teach us to love our enemies and live together with understanding and compassion. Amen.



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 alongside those in our parish asking for prayer, Brendas family as they grieve, Colin, Allison, Pat Foord, , Georgia (Sunaras Mum). Pat V David, Brenda, Joanie, Jo Jan, Joy I, Leanne, Daniella, Joyce and Ted, Mary R, Jac Bishop; Eileen Cook; Yvonne Scrutton; 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

Eternal God,
through long generations you prepared a way
for the coming of your Son,
and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths:
renew us in faith and hope
that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts
and claim your love; to whom be glory 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 spend some time reaching out to others, a member of your family, or someone who does not have family, or a friend, someone in your community who may be alone and would welcome a call or message from you. Let God guide you to the person or persons with whom you should connect. Contact them. Start a conversation: How have you been keeping, what about this changing weather or hope you are keeping well, or I was just thinking of you and decided to call

