



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

26th November 2023 Christ the King
*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 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 look at this parable as if God is so black and white. Sheep to the right, goats to the left. Some assume that they have God's favour because of position in which they serve. Here Jesus makes it clear that what we do or what we are doesn't earn our salvation. It is about our faithfulness to Him alone, to be able to love the lowest of the low as God loves them; as one of His children. Jesus chose to enter into our human mess. Likewise we are called to take his presence to those the world would call undesirable. When we see with our hearts the compassion of Christ, then we naturally care. In doing so it becomes an expression of our love for Jesus. It never crosses our mind that we are earning brownie points to get into heaven.



LIVING
IN LOVE
& FAITH

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 Book of Prophet Ezekiel Chapter 34 verses 11-16, 20-24

The Lord God says: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I

**He will feed them Himself
He will be their Shepherd**



myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken. Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 100 — A.P.B.A. page 326

1 O shout to the Lord in triumph all the earth:

serve the Lord with gladness

and come before his face with songs of joy.

2 Know that the Lord he is God:

it is he who has made us and we are his

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

3 Come into his gates with thanksgiving

and into his courts with praise:

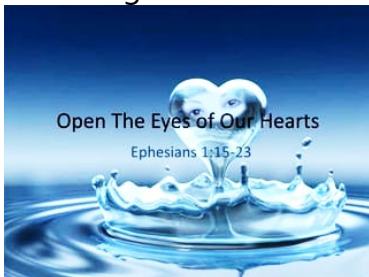
give thanks to him and bless his holy name.

4 For the Lord is good his loving mercy is for ever:

his faithfulness throughout all generations.



A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians Chapter 1 verses 15-23



I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the

saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew Chapter 25 verses 31-46

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ



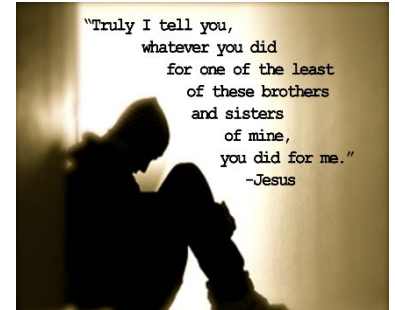
Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me

food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I

was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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



Sentence

O shout to the Lord in triumph all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness and come before his face with songs of joy. Psalm 100.1

. 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.

With the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you.

Come ...inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

'Inasmuch or as much as you have done to the least of these you have done it unto me'. These words alone express the unfathomable depth of God's judgment. God's grace is an integrated part of his judgment. We cannot earn our salvation least anyone should boast. God's sees the heart that seeks and longs for him and He responds with unmeasurable mercy. In this we live knowing peace even in turmoil, having hope even when despair hangs over us, knowing joy even when sadness is there, knowing assurance of God's love even when hatred tries to suppress us. And so, we live, living out our salvation daily, here on earth as it is in heaven. And all because God is the one who enables us.

Let us then with
CONFIDENCE
draw near
to the
throne of
grace
that we
may receive
mercy & find
to help
in time
of need.
hebrews 4:16

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. Bring restraint to both sides that they may renew efforts to work together to find a peaceful solution. We give thanks for the promised cease fire and release of hostages 🙏 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, Colin, Allison at home awaiting residential care, Pat Foord, recovering in hospital from a fall, 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; Brenda; 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.

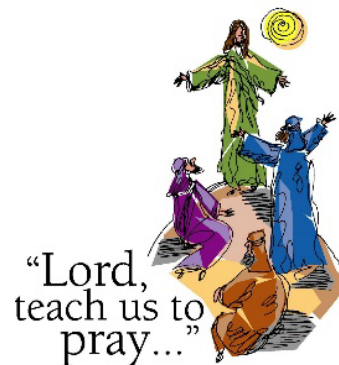


Let us say the Lord's Prayer Together.

Our Father

Prayer of the Day

God of power and love,
who raised your Son Jesus from death to life,
resplendent in glory to rule over all creation:
free the world to rejoice in his peace,
to glory in his justice, and to live in his love.
Unite the human race in Jesus Christ your Son,
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 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

