



1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF Advent

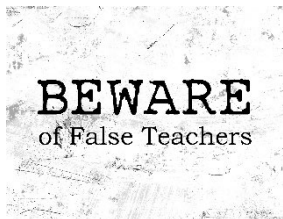
## SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2023 First 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 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 first Sunday in Advent, let us define the occasion by adding something special to our table that bring us Hope. If you are celebrating this meal alone please be aware that God Is With You.



The gospel reading in Mark has to be taken in context with the whole of Chapter 13. Jesus talks about the coming tribulation. He predicts the destruction of the Jewish temple. In 70AD it happened. He predicts many other things significant to the Christian world that had happened in their time. Wars, natural disasters, betrayal and an abhorrence against virtue and the people who live it. Twice he says there will be a deception over the world that will even convince the so called intelligent. People will claim to be the Christ. In other words, claiming to have the way of truth for the worlds salvation. Their motive is self serving and their hope is hollow.

**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 Isaiah, Chapter 64 beginning at Verse 1**

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence - <sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil - to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. <sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself, we transgressed. <sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are



like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. <sup>7</sup> There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. <sup>8</sup> Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup> Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people. Hear the word of the Lord, ***thanks be to God***

**Psalm 80 verses 1-7 17-19**

- 1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
- 2 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.  
Stir up your might, and come to save us!
- 3 Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears,  
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
- 6 You make us the scorn of our neighbours.  
our enemies laugh among themselves.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- 17 But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
- 18 Then we will never turn back from you;  
give us life, and we will call on your name.
- 19 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.



**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 1 beginning at Verse 1**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,  
<sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: <sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind - <sup>6</sup> just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you - <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**God has called you. He will not fail you.**

Hear the word of the Lord,

***thanks be to God.***

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, Chapter 13 beginning at verse 24  
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>24</sup> "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup> and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup> Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup> "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup> "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup> It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup> Therefore, keep awake - for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup> or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup> And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."



This is the Gospel of the Lord,

***praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

### **Sentence**

**'Heaven and earth will pass away,' says the Lord, 'but my words will not pass away.'**

*. 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.*

### **He will sustain you to the end**

**They will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.**

Jesus came into a world where life and death was cheap. He assures His Disciples that when things look even worse the world will see him once again. Apocalyptic prophecy is thick with metaphor and theologians share different views. However, throughout history in the darkest times of human calamity and suffering, humanity have turned to Christ in great numbers. Those who called on the Lord, whoever and from wherever, saw a saviour who gathered them into his love and compassion. Only then will people know the power and glory of Jesus the son of humanity. Yes, Christ will come again, but in the meantime, His people of faith are meant to be the representation of who Christ Jesus is.



**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 give thanks for the continuing cease fire and the return of 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 ....

