



## SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

14<sup>th</sup> January 2023

*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.

- ***Prayerful and intentional preparation for a meal***

As we celebrate 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.



Have you ever found it hard to believe someone when they've told you a fantastic story. They beg you to believe them until they tell you, just come and see for yourself. This was the scenario with Andrew and Nathaniel. Nathaniel even mocked Andrew, his story was simply too unbelievable. A promised Messiah coming from a run down, back wash of a town. What good comes from Nazareth?, he asks. When Nathaniel meet Jesus we don't know what happened at the fig tree or what honesty resonated with Him.



- ***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**



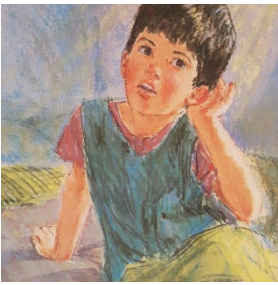
**Bless this food, both physical and spiritual.**

**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 first book of Samuel Chapter 3 verses 1-10**

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again,



"Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your

servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!"

And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

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

### **Psalm 139: 1-5, 12-18 — A.P.B.A. Page 370**

1 O Lord you have searched me out and known me:

you know when I sit or when I stand, you comprehend my thoughts long before.

2 You discern my path and the places where I rest:

you are acquainted with all my ways.

3 For there is not a word on my tongue:

but you Lord know it altogether.

4 You have encompassed me behind and before:

and have laid your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me:

so high that I cannot endure it.

12 For you have created my inward parts:

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

13 I will praise you for you are to be feared:

fearful are your acts and wonderful your works.

14 You knew my soul, and my bones were not hidden from you:

when I was formed in secret. and woven in the depths of the earth.

15 Your eyes saw my limbs when they were yet imperfect:

and in your book were all my members written.

16 Day by day they were fashioned:

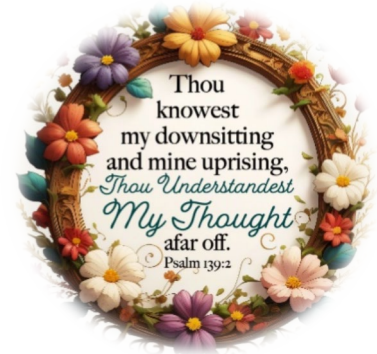
and not one was late in growing.

17 How deep are your thoughts to me O God:

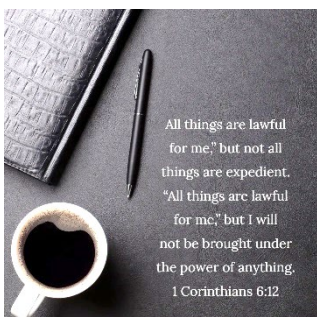
and how great is the sum of them!

18 Were I to count them, they are more in number than the sand:

were I to come to the end, I would still be with you.



### **A reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians Chapter 6 verses 12-20**



"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united

to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do

you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

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

### **The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John Chapter 1 verses 43-51**

#### **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God

ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

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



#### **Sentence**

*We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the king of Israel! John 1.41,49*

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.

**You Lord ...are acquainted with all my ways.**

**"Do you believe because I told you that I saw you."**

Jesus honed in on the depth of something poignant in his soul. He pinpointed something that Nathaniel held dearly in his identity. Honesty and integrity. To often we try to work out who God is and base our faith on this. How limited is that!



All along He asks us to let him reveal what he knows about us. When God does this we begin to see who God really is. King David got it, and we read it in the Psalm, Oh Lord you have searched me and know me. Jesus tells Nathaniel, you believe because of what you've seen and heard, one day you'll see just who the Son of man really 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 who continue to be affected by violence and conflict around the world especially in Israel and Gaza and Ukraine. We pray that all parties will work towards an end of the conflict and move to find peaceful solutions,

God of peace, bearer of hope, we seek your help for the people caught in the middles of conflict. Quiet the clamour of war and guide us all in your ways of peace.

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, Jean N Brendas family 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 S; C 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**

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**Prayer of the Day**

Eternal God,  
whose Son, Jesus Christ, is now exalted as Lord of all,  
and pours out his gifts upon the Church:  
grant it that unity which only your Spirit can give,  
keep us in the bond of peace,  
and bring all creation to worship before your throne;  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of 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 our Table Service, make contact with others who may be alone or missing seeing their families and loved ones. Use the time to catch up with your family and friends who are interstate or overseas. Use email or face time or SMS even write a note or two, to keep in contact and share with others the Joy of knowing Jesus and his promise of a brighter and better future in 2024, if we follow Him.



Let God guide you to the person or persons with whom you should connect. Contact them. Start a conversation: Share with them the Joy of Christmas. Emmanuel - God is with us.