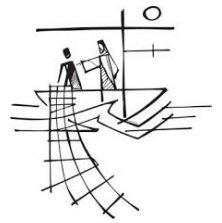


SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

21st January 2024

**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.



Jesus said come follow me and I will make you fishers of men. The general interpretation today is that the church initiates a recruitment program and believe this is salvation. This was far from Jesus intention. He was speaking about drawing people to the presance of God, not an institution. The fact many miss, is that Jesus says "I will make you," not, its up to you now. A follower of someone means that they embrace all that person is. To follow Jesus opens us up to be grafted into His nature, His Spirit. And so God begins his handy work in us.

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 Jonah Chapter 3 verses 1-10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah



began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish." When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 62:5-12 — A.P.B.A. Page 283

5 Nevertheless, my soul, wait in silence for God:
for from him comes my hope.

6 He only is my rock and my salvation:
my strong tower, so that I shall not be moved.

7 In God is my deliverance and my glory:
God is my strong rock and my shelter.

8 Trust in him at all times, O my people:
pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.

9 The children of Adam are but breath, the children of earth are a lie:
place them in the scales and they fly upward, they are as light as air.

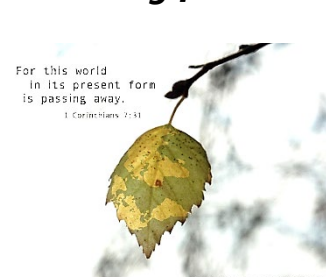
10 Put no trust in extortion,
do not grow worthless by robbery:
if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.

11 God has spoken once, twice have I heard him say:
that power belongs to God,

12 That to the Lord belongs a constant goodness:
for you reward each one of us according to our works.



A reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians Chapter 7 verses 29-31



Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no

possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. Hear the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

***The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark Chapter 1 verses 14-20
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me

and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.



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

Sentence

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel. Mark 1.15

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.

**“Come, follow Me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”
Rest in God alone, O my soul, for my hope comes from Him.**



His nature in us, is what helps others to see Christ's actual personality. They don't see a religious person, they see something precious and sacred that radiates out of our own personalities. Others naturally draw to the kind of people who are like this. And so, Jesus' analogy of making people fishermen comes true. But we can't simply put it on, it only happens as our hearts desire seeks to follow God. Those who get hooked find this life an awesome life to live in.

Now let us continue to offer our prayers and thanksgiving. We pray for healing of the world;

Lord, we ask for peace in these nations and throughout the world.

Please protect all those who are vulnerable to the effects of war and displacement from their homes. Please give those in authority the patience, humility, wisdom and endurance to persevere in bringing about positive solutions for their nations.

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, 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; CCoolling; 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

Bountiful God,
through your Son you have called us to repent of our sins,
to believe the good news,
and to celebrate the coming of your kingdom:
teach us, like Christ's first apostles,
to hear the call to discipleship,
and, forsaking old ways,
to proclaim the gospel of new life to a broken world;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you
and 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

Let God guide you to the person or persons with whom you should connect. Contact them. Start a conversation and share with others the Joy of knowing Jesus and his promise of a brighter and better future in 2024, if we follow Him. Emmanuel - God is with us.

