

25th February 2024 Second Sunday in Lent
*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**

Let us prepare our table with thanksgiving and prayer as we continue the Lenten Season, 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.**



Here's the rub. Jesus said to Peter, you do not have your mind on the things of God, but of the things of men. Life and living in all its forms demands us to respond. How we respond can be incredibly positive and constructive or deeply destructive and in all points inbetween. God in His infinite wisdom allows us to make our own choices. He calls this being Human. He has awesome ways that benefit all life. Things of His Spirit that enrich our souls. Things that bring value to us and to others. To understand these things we need to constantly pursue them.

- **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:

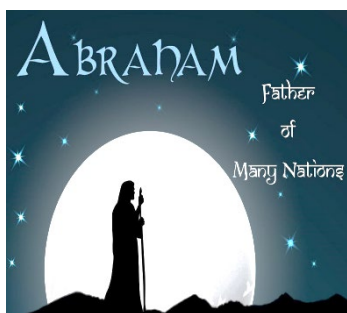


In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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 Genesis Chapter 17 verses 1-7 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you

throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

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

Psalm 22:24-32 — A.P.B.A. Page 242

24 O praise the Lord, all you that fear him: hold him in honour, O seed of Jacob, and let the seed of Israel stand in awe of him.

25 For he has not despised nor abhorred the poor man in his misery: nor did he hide his face from him, but heard him when he cried.

26 From you springs my praise in the great congregation:

I will pay my vows in the sight of all that fear you;

27 The meek shall eat of the sacrifice and be satisfied:

and those who seek the Lord shall praise him may their hearts rejoice for ever!

28 Let all the ends of the earth remember and turn to the Lord:

and let all the families of the nations worship before him.

29 For the kingdom is the Lord's:

and he shall be ruler over the nations.

30 How can those who sleep in the earth do him homage:

or those that descend to the dust bow down before him?

31 But he has saved my life for himself:

and my posterity shall serve him.

32 This shall be told of my Lord to a future generation:

and his righteousness declared to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.



A reading from the letter to the Romans Chapter 4 verses 13-25

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants



through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") — in the

presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark Chapter 8 verses 31-38

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.



For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

Sentence

If you want to become a disciple of Jesus, deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow him. Mark 8.34

- ***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.***

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man ... will be killed, and after three days rise again.

For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

**EXPERIENCING
TRUE
FREEDOM
IN JESUS
CHRIST**



Jesus literally told his followers that he would be killed. Of course Peter would say no. He didn't understand the spiritual principle God was planning through Jesus. In this case great sacrifice would deliver great freedom. Jesus knew his death on the cross would break the curse of sin. Sin is the name for the consequential damage we do to our souls, because of certain actions we chose to do. The Cross offers us a choice that brings our souls into a freedom beyond human effort, even religion. A choice that allows a healing, a hope, a peace, and a joy that was unimaginable before.

Its a no brainer. Why not chose the things of God? Jesus death and resurection therefore, takes us from the death of sin and literally raises us up into His Spirits life.

. **prayer-time** 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 . We pray for all those suffering from the effects of natural disasters, floods, fire and storms.

Protect all those who are vulnerable to the effects of war and displacement from their homes. 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 give thanks for the life work and witness of Betty Leske, who passed away peacefully last weekend. Please pray for her family and friends as they grieve. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

We continue to pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer, Matthew, Ann , Kathryn and Keiran, Ruth, 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; 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 all times and places,
in Jesus Christ, who was lifted up on the cross,
you opened for us the path to eternal life:
grant that we, being born again of water and the Spirit,
may joyfully serve you in newness of life
and faithfully walk in your holy ways;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
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 and would welcome a call or message from you. Use the time to catch up with your family and friends who are interstate or overseas. Use your phone or email or face time or SMS, write letters or notes - 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 if we follow Him. Emmanuel - God is with us.

