



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

21st April 2024 Easter 4

**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 the wonder of the resurrection let us define the occasion by decorating our table with a variety of items that bring us joy and reflect on the new life promised to all in the Risen Christ. Set your meal for this day. And give some thought to the presentation of your meal as a meditation on the importance of the time you are setting aside for worship. Make it pleasing to your eye. If you are celebrating this meal without people physically present, please be aware that **God Is With You.**



What if salvation means how we can live today on earth, not so much a ticket into heaven? And what if Jesus means us to follow Him here on earth as it is in heaven?

Christianity is often mocked as juvenile and naive. How can a faith based on loving one's neighbour and finding peace based on the crucifixion of a man have any foundation? Yet despite a concerted effort to crush it, the message of divine love has not ceased. If a psychologist was to break down the message of Jesus salvation they would find a real formula for humanity to thrive in all the virtues there are. So, when Jesus said He is the good shepherd He is telling us to follow His way of life. A way that opens us up to understanding how much we can benefit from a life in God.

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***

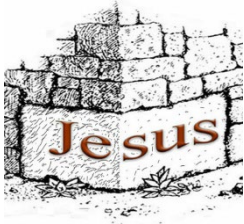


• ***Let us read and reflect on our cycle of readings***

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles Chapter 4 verses 5-12

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."



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

Psalm 23 — A.P.B.A. Page 243

1 The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.

2 He will make me lie down in green pastures:
and lead me beside still waters.

3 He will refresh my soul:
and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:

for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me
in the face of those who trouble me:

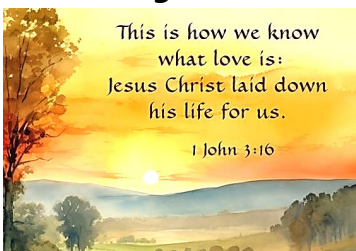
you have anointed my head
with oil, and my cup shall be full.

6 Surely your goodness and loving-kindness
will follow me all the days of my life:

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.



A reading from the First Letter of John Chapter 3 verses 16-24



We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us — and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth

and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us. Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John Chapter 10 verses 11-18

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away — and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

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

Sentence

'I am the good shepherd,' says the Lord. 'I know my own and my own know me.' John 10.14

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.

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

The Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

King David gets how awesome it is to be in God's domain, it is why he wrote the 23rd Psalm. God not only creates a world that thrives with life,. He also makes it possible to belong in Him. This took a sacrifice, an actual part of Himself enters into our pain and suffering. He has entered into the

mess of humanity. Being with us, we then can be with Him. In being with Him we can get to know Him, because He knows us intimately.

Perhaps the metaphor of Jesus being our shepherd is inadequate. He cares for us infinitely more. Jesus laid down his life for us so that we can come into His salvation and discover the awesomeness of life He has for us.



prayer-time Now let us continue to offer our prayers for those in need, We remember in particular, those who have suffered loss or injury in the recent knifing attacks in Australia. Holy One, you are our comfort and strength in times of sudden disaster, crisis, or chaos. Surround us now with your grace and peace and, By your Spirit, lift up those who have fallen, sustain those who work to aid those in need and fill us with the hope of your new creation; through Jesus Christ, our rock and redeemer.



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, Wendy, Gweneth, Jo and Ginne, Joyce and Ted 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, 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

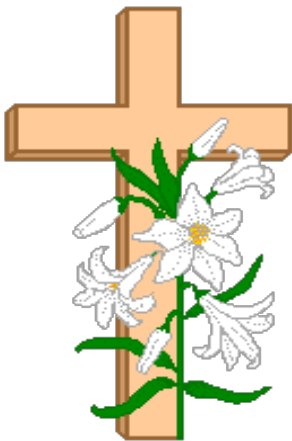
Collect for Easter 4

Jesus, good shepherd of the sheep,
by whom the lost are sought
and guided into the fold:
feed us and we shall be satisfied,
heal us and we shall be whole,
and lead us that we may be with you,
where you live and reign with the Father 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.***



***Christ is Risen! Alleluia!
He is Risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Intentional connection beyond your home

After sharing in the Table Service, try to 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 you do not regularly see. Let God guide you to the person or persons with whom you should connect. Contact them. Start a conversation and share with others the good news of Jesus, the resurrection and promise of Eternal Life. Showing others that there is a brighter and better future if we only believe and follow Him.

