



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

28th 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 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 the bible is not simply a book but a map that unfolds God's plan for humanity. Each part being interconnected with the whole.

So here's the picture in the Acts reading. A bloke is frustrated because the bible he is reading doesn't make sense. I think at some stage we've all been like him. Another bloke comes to the guy and shows him the part of the book he is reading is not simply a story. It is part of God's plan for all of us. The first bloke sees the big picture and realises he too is part of this plan and says he wants in. This is the invite God offers all of us. Jesus not only broke the mold in His day. He was the one the ancient Jewish prophets pointed too. He is the one that is still breaking the mold today. From the Old Testament to the New Jesus invites us to be grafted into being a part of His big picture.

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 8 verses 26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot



and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptised?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptised him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:26-32 — A.P.B.A. Page 243

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!

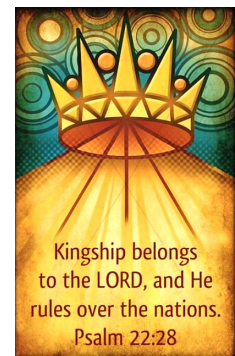
28 Let all the ends of the earth remember and turn to the Lord:
and let all the families of the nations worship before him.

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.



Kingship belongs to the LORD, and He rules over the nations.
Psalm 22:28

A reading from the First Letter of John Chapter 4 verses 7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this

world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those

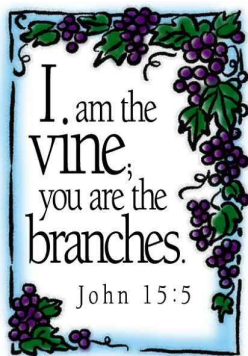


who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John Chapter 15 verses 1-8

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus said: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.



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

Sentence

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4.10-11

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 asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit

The John reading spells out what being grafted in means. It is not about joining a religious movement. It is about letting God make us part of Him, as a new branch is grafted to a fruit tree. When this happens all that is of God's goodness flows through us. It's like the sap in the fruit tree that feeds the branch. That sap is the Spiritual stuff that nourishes us. The sap that produces fruit for the tree, now flows in the branch to produce fruit as well. Once separated, now we become one in Him and He in us. This is His plan and we call it salvation. But like the guy reading the bible, God waits till we desire and want this, then He sets to work to flow through our lives.



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, Brenda's 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.

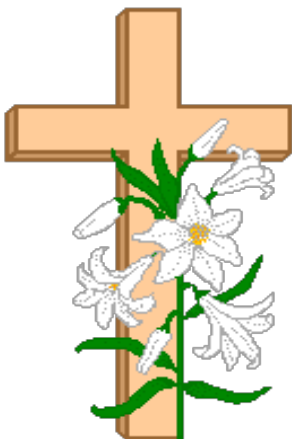
Let us say the Lord's Prayer Together. Our Father

Collect for Easter 5

O God,
form the minds of your faithful people,
that we may love what you command
and desire what you promise,
so that, amid the many changes of this world,
our hearts may there be fixed where true joys are to be found;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
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.***



***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.

