



## SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

7<sup>th</sup> April 2024 Easter 2

**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.**



Does God understand our doubts? If He does then does he have a back up plan? This reading Has the risen Jesus appearing in a locked room. He breaths on the disciples to receive the Holy Spirit. Then Thomas comes late and wants proof that Jesus is alive. The truth is we all need to know that Jesus is alive, if not then Christianity is but a human fabrication. The key here is that Jesus gives us the gift he has promised. The breath of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The real evidence the Disciples had was not that Jesus stood before them; but that they received a Spiritual change in their lives. A change that was not of their own doing that continued even after Jesus left. A change still offered to us that opens our eyes to a relational God who interacts with us.



*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 beginning at Verse 32*

32 Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. 33 With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. 35 They laid it at the apostles' feet, and

"They would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need." (Acts 2:45)

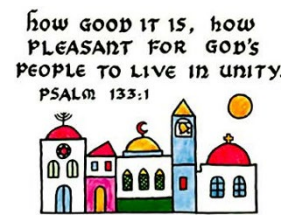


it was distributed to each as any had need. 36 There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). 37 He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

### *Psalm 133*

1 Behold how good and how lovely it is:  
when families live together in unity.  
2 It is fragrant as oil upon the head,  
that runs down over the beard:  
fragrant as oil upon the beard of Aaron,  
that ran down over the collar of his robe.  
3 It is like a dew of Hermon:  
like the dew that falls upon the hill of Zion.  
4 For there the Lord has commanded his blessing:  
which is life for evermore.



### *A reading from the First letter of John, Chapter 1 beginning at Verse 1*

1 We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life - 2 this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us - 3 we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. 5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; 7 but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**



### *The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, Chapter 20 beginning at verse 19*

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

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." 24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." 26 A week later his disciples were again in the



house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." 30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples,

which are not written in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

**praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Sentence**

'Peace be with you,' says the Lord. 'As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'

***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 breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."**

**Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"**

Thomas was branded a doubter, in fact all the Disciples all had trouble believing. We are no different now. We can be as crude as Thomas, wanting to put our fingers in the nail holes and wound in Jesus side. Would you believe God understands. If his grace was to Thomas and the Disciples, why not now. Faith is a gift that God give us and it starts by the presence of His Spirit in our lives. This is where God's grace meets our doubts and brings us a spiritual assurance. Then, Like Thomas we no longer need wounds to touch. Our hearts cry in absolute revelation, my Lord and my God.



**prayer-time** Now let us continue to offer our prayers and thanksgiving. Dear God, Our world is torn with war and violence. we pray that you provide this world with a peace that is only found in you. We pray for those who are suffering from the results of war and violence. We pray you provide them with both physical and mental healing. We pray for an end to these wars and acts of violence. We pray for an end to all of the division between individuals, groups, and nations. We pray for your healing to turn the minds of those in power to love rather than to hate, to life rather than to death. In Jesus' name, through the victory of his resurrection, we pray. 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, 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.

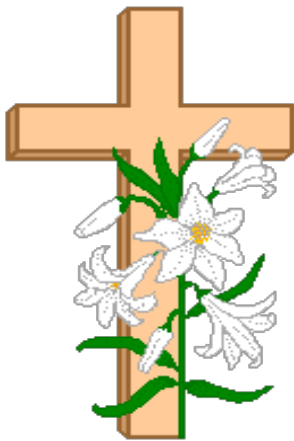
**Let us say the Lord's Prayer Together. Our Father .....**

**Collect for Easter 2**

Risen Christ,  
whose absence leaves us in despair  
but whose presence is overwhelming:  
breathe on us with your abundant life,  
that where we cannot see  
we may have courage to believe  
that we may be raised with you. **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.

