



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

12th May 2024 Sunday after Ascension

**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

Today we remember the Ascension of Jesus to his Father in heaven. So 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.**



Have you ever met someone who shone with love and grace and kindness. You kind of want to hang out with them. Something about them affects whatever space they walk into.

In John 17 Jesus prays an extraordinary prayer. In this prayer he prays not only for the disciples but for us in the future, V20. That we may be "one" amongst ourselves and in God as He is one with God. He then asks that we be sanctified, meaning set apart by the word and the truth. He then says He gives us His glory just as God glorified Him. It is only by this sanctification and glorification that we are equipped to bring God's kind of love to others. In fact it is the presence of God in us that does this. His Holy Spirit.

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 1 verses 15-17, 21-26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus — for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." So one of the men who have



accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us — one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

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

Psalm 1 — A.P.B.A. Page 224

1 Blessed are they
who have not walked in the counsel of the ungodly:
nor followed the way of sinners,
nor taken their seat amongst the scornful.
2 But their delight is in the law of the Lord:
and on that law will they ponder day and night.
3 They are like trees planted beside streams of water:
that yield their fruit in due season.
4 Their leaves also shall not wither:
and look, whatever they do it shall prosper.
5 As for the ungodly, it is not so with them:
they are like the chaff which the wind scatters.
6 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand up at the judgement:
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
7 For the Lord cares for the way of the righteous:
but the way of the ungodly shall perish.



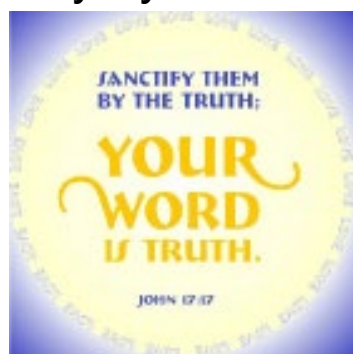
A reading from the First Letter of John Chapter 5 verses 9-13

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John Chapter 17 verses 6-19

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ



Jesus said, “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name

that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

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

Sentence

Jesus Prayed, 'Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.' John 17.11

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.

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.



When Jesus was baptised by John, the Spirit came upon Jesus like a dove. God spoke, "This is my Son, whom I love, with Him I am well pleased." In that instant Jesus was sanctified by God His Father. Now He was fully equipped to fulfil the purpose for which He came to do and be glorified in it. He would soon make access for all humanity to know freedom from sin and God's all embracing love. Jesus prays the prayer of our High Priest offering Himself as our sacrifice for sin, from all that blocks our relationship with God. As we enter into this offering, God now consecrates us as His Holy people. Jesus gives us His glory, His Spirit to dwell in us. Thus we too can live out His word and truth for the redemption of all of creation.

prayer-time Now let us continue to offer our prayers for those in need, those looking for peace and reconciliation. Lord, Lead us from death to life, From falsehood to truth. Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Let peace fill our hearts, our world and our universe. Let us dream together, pray together and work together, To build one world of peace and justice for all. 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.

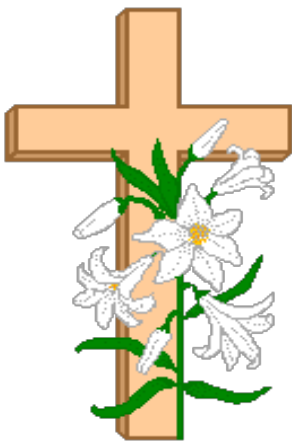
Let us say the Lord's Prayer Together. Our Father

Collect for Sunday after Ascension

Almighty God,
your blessed Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things:
mercifully give us faith to trust
that, as he promised,
he abides with us on earth until the end of time;
through the same 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.

