



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

5th May 2024 Easter 6

*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.**



We kind of see God as some big impersonal eminence. On the contrary Jesus shows us the example of a very connectable God. We kind of think that we have to prove ourselves somehow to be worthy enough to be accepted by God. We are loved by God just as parents love their new born child. It matters not what shape they are in or if there is a problem. Before them is something awesomely created.

Just so, God has loved us before we could even comprehend the word love. As we grow to realise how amazing God's love is, we then can't help to respond accordingly. Not only to love Him but to show this love to others. The 1 John reading puts it simply, "whoever is born of God conquers the world." That is, conquers the world with God's kind of love.

*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 10 verses 44-48

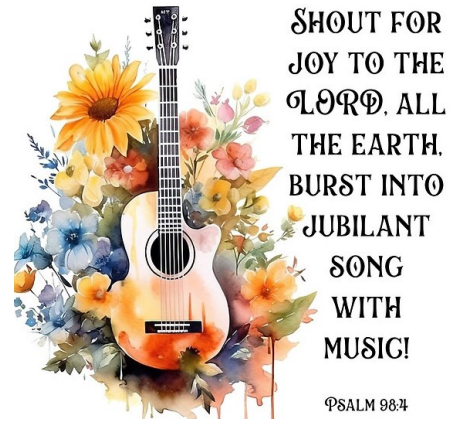


While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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

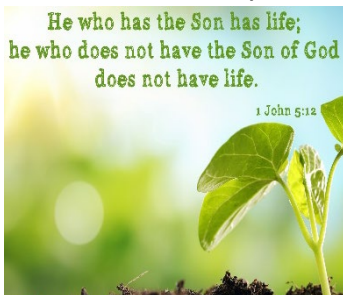
Psalm 98 A.P.B.A. Page 325

1 O sing to the Lord a new song:
for he has done marvellous things;
2 His right hand and his holy arm:
they have got him the victory.
3 The Lord has made known his salvation:
he has revealed his just deliverance
in the sight of the nations.
4 He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness
towards the house of Israel:
and all the ends of the earth
have seen the salvation of our God.
5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth:
break into singing and make melody.
6 Make melody to the Lord upon the harp:
upon the harp and with the sounds of praise.
7 With trumpets and with horns:
cry out in triumph before the Lord, the king.
8 Let the sea roar, and all that fills it:
the good earth and those who live upon it.
9 Let the rivers clap their hands:
and let the mountains ring out together before the Lord;
10 For he comes to judge the earth:
he shall judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.



A reading from the First Letter of John Chapter 5 verses 1-12

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth. There are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these three agree. 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.



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

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John Chapter 15 verses 9-17
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Jesus said: As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.



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

Sentence

Jesus said, 'You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit. John 15.16

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.

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.



In the Acts reading Peter is talking about Jesus to foreigners. Suddenly God's Spirit overwhelms those listening. These people are from a completely different culture. It surprises those with Peter, but it shows us that we are all welcome into God's embrace. The thing is, that what happened was God's doing, no one else. He is not constrained by our religious formalities, bias, judgments or social structures. In Jesus ethos, He says because we belong to God we are his friends.

Friends in this context means the love we have for Him because of His sacrificial love for us. No one is excluded.

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 attacks on women in Australia. 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.

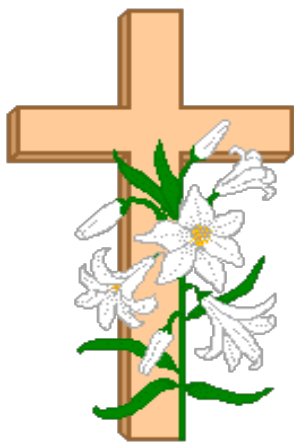
Let us say the Lord's Prayer Together. Our Father

Collect for Easter 6

Loving God,
your Son has chosen us
and called us to be his friends:
give us grace to keep his commandments,
to love one another,
and to bear fruit which will abide;
through him who is the true vine,
the source of all our life,
Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

