



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

Sunday 15th September 2024

*Let us sit and watch Songs of Praise
together on the ABC*

The generous will themselves
be blessed, for they share
their food with the poor.



Proverbs 22:9

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 today let us define the occasion by adding something special to our table, Give some thought to the presentation of our meal as a meditation on the importance of the time we are setting aside for worship.

If you are celebrating this meal without people physically present, please be aware that **God Is With You.**



Letting go and
letting God
lead

In the Gospel reading Peter gets who Jesus is amazingly right and then in the next breath totally misunderstands Him! On the first point Jesus says God had shown him who He is. On the second point Jesus states your mind is on human things, not divine. It shows us how often we too, can put the things of God into a human world. God has a way of speaking for Himself that can touch our very souls. The trouble is, we wrestle letting go of our control and letting the one we cannot control be in control. Thus letting Him reveal to us just how awesome He is.

opening prayer — consciously drawing together in our mind our Parish community around our table.

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,

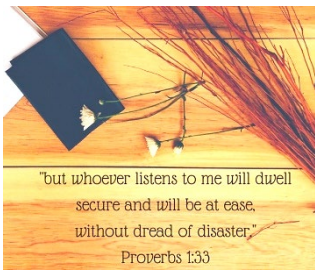
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen



Let us read and reflect on our cycle of readings

A reading from the Book of Proverbs Chapter 1 v 20-33

Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice. At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? Give heed to my reproof; I will pour out my thoughts to you; I will make my words known to you. Because I have called and you refused, have stretched out my hand and no one heeded, and because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when panic strikes you, when panic strikes you like a storm, and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. Then they will call upon me, but I will not



answer; they will seek me diligently, but will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord, would have none of my counsel, and despised all my reproof, therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own devices. For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools destroys them; but those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease, without dread of disaster." Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 19 —

The heavens tell about the glory of God.

The skies announce what his hands have made.

² Each new day tells more of the story,
and each night reveals more and more about God's power.

³ You cannot hear them say anything.
They don't make any sound we can hear.

⁴ But their message goes throughout the world. Their teaching reaches the ends of the earth.

The sun's tent is set up in the heavens.

⁵ It comes out like a happy bridegroom from his bedroom.
It begins its path across the sky like an athlete eager to run a race.

⁶ It starts at one end of the sky
and runs all the way to the other end. Nothing can hide from its heat.

⁷ The LORD's teachings are perfect. They give strength to his people.
The LORD's rules can be trusted. They help even the foolish become wise.

⁸ The LORD's laws are right. They make people happy.
The LORD's commands are good. They show people the right way to live.

⁹ Learning respect for the LORD is good. It will last forever.
The LORD's judgments are right. They are completely fair

¹⁰ His teachings are worth more than pure gold.
They are sweeter than the best honey dripping from the honeycomb.

¹¹ His teachings warn his servants,
and good things come to those who obey them.

¹² People cannot see their own mistakes,
so don't let me commit secret sins.

¹³ Don't let me do what I know is wrong. Don't let sin control me.
If you help me, I can be pure and free from sin.

¹⁴ May my words and thoughts please you.
LORD, you are my Rock—the one who rescues me.



A reading from the letter of James Chapter 2 v 18-26



But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe — and shudder. Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith apart from works is barren? Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works. Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it

was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. You see that a person

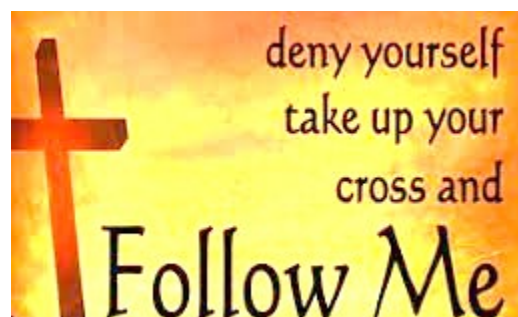
is justified by works and not by faith alone. Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark Chapter 8 v 27-38a

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."



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

Sentence Those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for the sake of the gospel will save it. Mark 8.35

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.

James 3:9 With our tongue we bless the Lord ... we curse others made in God's likeness.

Mark 8:33 You are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.



The next part of the Gospel reading gives us a key into how we can be open to God's ways. Jesus says we should deny ourselves and lose our lives for Him. This doesn't advocate martyrdom. It means to lay down our self-centred ways, our sense of self importance, and even what we believe to be our rights and values. We could own everything but be empty or if we empty ourselves God installs everything He is in us. Jesus is asking us to trade our ways for the worth and value God can give us.

He builds in us a new identity that mirrors Jesus. Thus He says, this is how our lives are saved.

prayer-time Now let us continue to offer our prayers for those in need, those looking for peace and reconciliation.

God of heaven and earth, in your Word you have given us a vision of that holy city to which the nations of the world bring their glory. Look upon and visit the cities of the earth. Renew the ties of mutual regard that form our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Help us to eliminate poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order, and that men and women from various cultures and with differing talents may find with one another the fulfillment of their humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer, For the friends and family of Ebony seriously ill in hospital (Peter and Heather's daughter in law) Pat, Jean, Nicole, David, Takoohi , Glenda, Deryn, Margaret, Wendy, Gweneth, Jo and Ginne ,Joyce and Ted, Matthew, Ann , Kathryn and Keiran, Ruth, Jean N, Brendas family, Colin , Georgia (Sunaras Mum). Pat V, David, Brenda, Joanie, Jo, Jan, Joy I, Leanne, Daniella, Mary R, Jac Bishop; Eileen Cook; Yvonne S; Ursula Pridham; 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

Prayer of the Day

God of mercy,
help us to forgive as you have forgiven us,
to trust you, even when hope is failing,
and to take up our cross daily and follow you in your redeeming work;
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.

intentional connection beyond your home

After our Table Service spend some time reaching out to others, a member of your family, or someone who does not have family, or a friend, someone in your community who may be alone and would welcome a call or message from you. , Let God guide you to the person or persons with whom you should connect. Contact them. Start a conversation: 'I was thinking of you.....' Or What did you think of.....

