

# SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

## Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024

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



### 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.**



In this weeks Gospel the Disciples see people praying for someone in Jesus name. They go to Jesus and complain that those people are not from their group and they should be stopped. Jesus says, leave them be, as they are doing the work of his Father. Faith in God is not relegated to any organisation or degree. God responds to a heart that believes He will and can be part of them and in others lives.

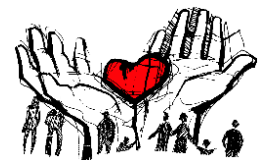
### opening prayer — consciously drawing together in our mind our Parish community around our table.

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 Esther Chapter 7 v 1-6 9-10 Chapter 9 20-22

The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you.

And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favour, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me — that is my petition — and the lives of my people — that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen

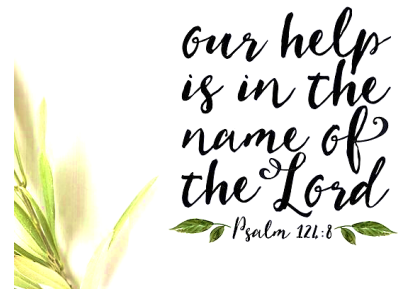


Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor. Hear the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

### **Psalm 124 — A.P.B.A. Page 361**

1 If the Lord had not been on our side, now may Israel say:  
if the Lord had not been on our side, when our enemies rose against us,  
2 Then they would have swallowed us alive:  
when their anger was kindled against us.  
3 Then the waters would have overwhelmed us and the torrent gone over us:  
the raging waters would have gone clean over us.  
4 But praised be the Lord:  
who has not given us as a prey to their teeth.  
5 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler:  
the snare is broken and we have gone free.  
6 Our help is in the name of the Lord:  
who has made heaven and earth.



### **A reading from the letter of James Chapter 5 12-20**

Above all, my beloved, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "Yes" be yes and your "No" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. Are any



among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us,

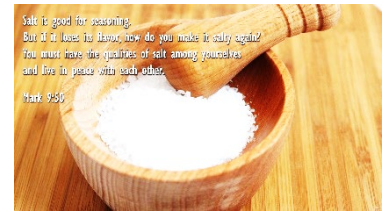
and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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

### **The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark Chapter 9 v 38-50**

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak

evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell., And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."



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

### Sentence

Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can it be seasoned?  
Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another. Mark 9.35

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.

**Mark 9:39 Do not stop him, for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able to speak evil of me.**

**Numbers 11:39 "Are you jealous for my sake? I would that ..... the LORD would put his spirit on them all!"**

There are all different christian religions, most of them genuinely try their best to promote the grace of God. Sadly people get jealous of one another and only point to each others faults. The question is which Church does God go too. The answer is none of them. He is open to any hearts that are open to him, therefore He dwells in the souls of those who live for Him. Jesus says, Come close to God, and God will come close to you. this speaks about souls that seek to be ambassadors of God and God being evident in their lives. Knowing Gods grace and mercy they bring it to others wherever they are, and God responds.



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

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the true King of peace. In You alone is found freedom. Please free our world from conflict. Bring unity to troubled nations. Let Your glorious peace reign in every heart. Dispel all darkness and evil. Protect the dignity of every human life. Replace hatred with Your love. Give wisdom to world leaders. Free them from selfish ambition. Eliminate all violence and war.

### 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 still healing 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**

O God,  
your Son has taught us that those who give a cup of water  
in his name will not lose their reward:  
open our eyes to see those who are in need,  
and teach us to set no store by riches and earthly rewards,  
so that, in surrendering ourselves to serve you in your children,  
we may labour for the treasure that endures;  
through 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.***



***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.....

