



## SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 2024

Third Sunday in Advent

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



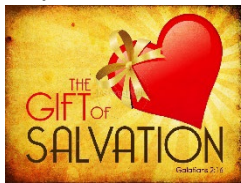
### ***Setting our table for our Sunday lunch service.***

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. Give some thought to the presentation of our meal as a meditation on the importance of the time we are setting aside for worship...



As we celebrate on this, the Third Sunday in Advent, let us define the occasion by adding something special to our table that will remind us of the Joy that this season brings to us. If you are celebrating this meal alone please be aware that **God Is With You.**

This Gospel reading seems quite harsh with the coming of Christmas. The people coming to be baptised called Vipers. Then trees with bad fruit and chaff needing burning with unquenchable fire. John the Baptist was making a point, don't come to repent if it is just a quick fix solution to get of the hook. Come wanting to shed off the damage of sin. To want God to be everything in your life. Then repentance is real. Then it leads us to be saturated in the Spirit of God and His refining in our lives. Salvation then becomes a living thing.



### ***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 Zephaniah 3 14-20***



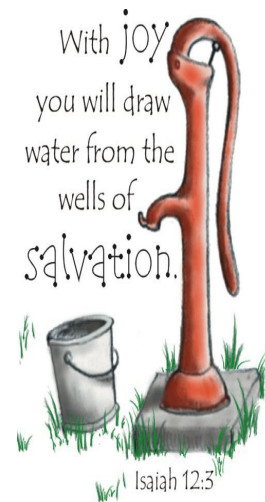
Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The

Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

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

***For the Psalm: A Song of Isaiah 12:2-6 — A.P.B.A. page 391***

'Behold God is my salvation:  
I will trust and will not be afraid;  
For the Lord God is my strength and my song:  
and has become my salvation.'  
With joy you will draw water:  
from the wells of salvation. On that day you will say:  
'Give thanks to the Lord call upon his name;  
'Make known his deeds among the nations:  
proclaim that his name is exalted.  
'Sing God's praises who has triumphed gloriously:  
let this be known in all the world.  
'Shout and sing for joy you that dwell in Zion:  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!'



***A reading from the letter to the Philippians 4 4-7***



Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

***The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 3 7-18  
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptised by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptised, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to

them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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



I Baptize With Water  
But One Mightier  
Is Coming

### **Sentence**

*Do not fear. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love. Zephaniah 3.16-17*

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.

**Isaiah 12:2 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid, for the Lord is my strength.**

**Luke 3:10 And the crowds asked Him, "What shall we do?"**

The Messiah means salvation. Jesus came into the world to restore us into God's love.



Jesus the ultimate gift at Christmas. A love so much, that God knew we were worth dying for. A love so much, that we could be a channel for that love to flow through. To restore us into his embrace so that we can live a life with more hope than we can imagine. Good works cannot save us, but knowing the life salvation brings one cannot help but do good works. It turns institutional

religion on its head, because faith in God is the only way to produce the good fruit of His righteousness.

**prayer-time** 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 offer our prayers for those in need, those looking for peace and reconciliation.

Father God, we pray for our world today. We pray for peace hope and joy to abound. Surround with your Grace all those who are caught up in the wars and conflicts ,are affected by natural disasters: floods, droughts and forest fires. are struggling with poverty and the global food crisis.

Heavenly Father, as once again we prepare for Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for quiet thought and prayer, that we may reflect upon the wonder of your love and allow the story of the Saviour's birth to penetrate our hearts and minds. So may our joy be deeper, our worship more real, and our lives worthier of all that you have done for us through the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.



We pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer, Patrusca, Lorraine, Rachel ( Bill \* & Margarets daughter), Steve (Fr Dennis and Mary son), Ebony (Peter and Heather's daughter in law) Deryn recovering from surgery, Pat, Jean, Nicole, David, Takoochi , Glenda, Margaret, Wendy, Gweneth, Jo and Ginne ,Joyce and Ted, Matthew, Ann , Kathryn and Keiran, Ruth, Jean N, Colin , Georgia (Sunaras Mum). Pat V, Brenda, Joanie, Jo, Jan, Joy I, Jac Bishop; Eileen Cook; Ursula Pridham; Barbara Webber; Tom Arnold; Nicholas & Ben; Sue & Frank Gordon; 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**

Almighty God,  
you sent your Son into a world  
where the wheat must be winnowed from the chaff  
and evil clings even to what is good:  
let the fire of your Spirit purge us of all corruption,  
so that, purified, we may wait eagerly for him whose coming is certain,  
whose Day draws near,  
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and 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.....

