



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

Sunday 1st December 2024

First 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 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 first Sunday in Advent, let us define the occasion by adding something special to our table that bring us Hope. If you are celebrating this meal alone please be aware that **God Is With You.**

Luke 21 seems an odd reading for the first Sunday of Advent. The expectation of Christmas. But this reading is all about expectation. Living our lives as if the Lord will be on our doorstep any minute. If you read this reading you have to understand that Luke was writing this at the dawn of the Roman sacking of Jerusalem. The suppression of the rebellion across Israel and the complete destruction of the Jewish temple in 70AD. It was also the time of great persecution against the fledgling church.

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.

First Reading A reading from the prophet Jeremiah Jer. 33:14-16



The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."
Hear the word of the Lord.

Psalm 25: 1-10 — A.P.B.A. page 244

In you O Lord my God have I put my hope:
in you have I trusted let me not be ashamed
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
Let none who wait for you be put to shame:
but let those that break faith
be confounded and gain nothing.
Show me your ways O Lord: and teach me your paths.
Lead me in the ways of your truth and teach me:
for you are the God of my salvation.
In you have I hoped all the day long:
because of your goodness O Lord.
Call to mind your compassion and your loving-kindness:
for they are from of old.
Remember not the sins of my youth nor my transgressions:
but according to your mercy think on me.
Good and upright is the Lord:
therefore will he direct sinners in the way.
The meek he will guide in the paths of justice:
and teach the humble his ways.
All the paths of the Lord are faithful and true:
for those who keep
his covenant and his commandments.



Second Reading 1 Thess. 3:9-13 A reading from the first letter to the Thessalonians

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Hear the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God



Gospel Lk. 21:25-38 The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ



Jesus said to his disciples: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man." Every day he was teaching in the temple, and at night he would go out and spend the night on the Mount of Olives, as it was called. And all the people would get up early in the morning to listen to him in the temple.

The Gospel of the Lord Praise to you Lord Jesus Chris

Sentence

5 Stand up and raise your heads; your redemption is drawing near. Luke 21.28

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.

Luke 21:33. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

1 Thess 3:12. May the Lord make you increase and abound in love

The Disciples remembered Jesus words and many fled Jerusalem at that time, many never to return again. You would think with all this trauma and upheaval Christianity would have simply faded away. Instead it thrived. Knowing Christ in their hearts, they held an unshakeable faith. They were on the forefront of helping those suffering despite their own hardships. True Christianity does not rely on institutional regulations to maintain solidarity. It thrives because those who accept Christ enter into a new understanding of who God is in their lives. It is God Himself that gives us peace and assurance that He will never leave or forsake us.

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 and hope to abound.

Many are affected by natural disasters: floods, droughts and forest fires. Many are struggling with conflict, poverty and the global food crisis.

Eternal God, in whose perfect realm no sword is drawn but the sword of justice, and no strength known but the strength of love: guide and inspire all who seek your kingdom, that peoples and nations may find their security in the love which casts out fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.



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, Takoohi , 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

Eternal God, you
have taught us that the night is far spent
and the day is at hand:
keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom,
and make us strong in faith,
so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth,
we may go out joyfully to greet him;
and, with all your saints, may worship you for ever;
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.....

