

SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

Sunday 5th January 2025

Second Sunday After Christmas

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

In love I am
Blessed, Chosen
Adopted, Favored
Redeemed &
Forgiven.
Ephesians 1:3-8

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



John 1 speaks about God reason for Jesus to become the word made flesh. God actually chose to dwell with us. This means in Jesus he entered humanities mess and pain. We know what righteousness living is but we are subject to failure. Jesus take this curse upon himself and breaks it through the cross. John implores us to receive the living word and the light that disperses darkness.

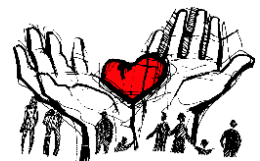
. opening prayer — consciously drawing together in our mind our Parish community around our table.

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 prophet Jeremiah Chapter 31:7-14



God says:
You will be my
people and I will
be your God.
I will always love
you,
You are precious
to me.....
Once again you
will dance for joy.
Jeremiah 31: 3-4

The Lord says: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labour, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and

sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.
Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

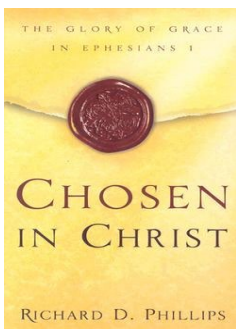
Psalms 147:12-20 — A.P.B.A. page 378

12 Praise the Lord O Jerusalem:
sing praises to your God O Zion.
13 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates:
and blessed your children with in you.
14 He makes peace with in your borders:
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
15 He sends his command to the earth:
and his word runs very swiftly.
16 He gives snow like wool:
and scatters the hoar-frost like ashes.
17 He sprinkles his ice like morsels of bread:
and the waters harden at his frost.
18 He sends out his word and melts them:
he blows with his wind and the waters flow.
19 He made his word known to Jacob:
his statutes and judgements to Israel.
20 He has not dealt so with any other nation:
nor have they knowledge of his laws
Praise — the Lord.



A reading from the letter to the Ephesians Chapter 1 3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will,



according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John Chapter 1 :(1-9), 10-18

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

[In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in

the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.



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

Sentence

God has destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. Ephesians 1.15-16

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.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ

John 1:16 From His fullness we have all received grace upon grace.

John later says that God gives us Grace upon grace. First all humanity knows the laws of righteousness. These are the things that bring peace, healing, joy and blessings. Following these principles are absolute in grace yet humanity through sin is flawed to failure. Through Jesus we can become living beings of righteousness. This means God has now made our souls his dwelling place. This is the second grace that makes us vessels of the light of Jesus. First God gives us the knowledge of righteousness, secondly God has made us living beings 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.

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. Many are caught up in violence through the actions of others. O Lord, we pray for your provision, peace and protection for all your children, and that wise heads will work together towards peace and reconciliation in the world. We ask this In Jesus' name, Amen.



We pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer, Sue Mc, Griselda, 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 T 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



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Prayer of the Day

Almighty God,
you have filled us with the light of the Word,
who became flesh and lived among us:
let the light of faith shine in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of 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. Wish them a Happy New Year and let them know of the hope God gives them as they journey through the year: a time of new beginnings with the promise of God's unconditional love and blessing for us all.

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.....

