

SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

16th February 2025

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

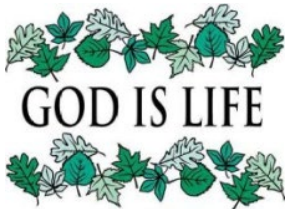


Setting our table for our Sunday lunch service.

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, 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.**



Why does Jesus say blessed are you if you are poor, hungry, and weeping; when people hate you, exclude you, revile you and defame you. It sounds like a formula to scare people away from faith not to build faith. Here Jesus is speaking of Spiritual things, to be poor or hungry refers to the desire to be nourished in God's richness. Our weeping or mourning is turned to joy in the knowledge of redemption, Christ's very life within us. In God's economy, knowing His spiritual fulfilment, His peace, His joy, is knowing His presence that never leaves us, even if others are hurtful.



. 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 17 5-10

Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is in the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water,

sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse — who can understand it? I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

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

Psalm 1 — A.P.B.A. page 224

1. Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the ungodly:
nor followed the way of sinners, nor taken their seat amongst the scornful.
2. But their delight is in the law of the Lord:
and on that law will they ponder day and night.
3. They are like trees planted beside streams of water: that
yield their fruit in due season.
4. Their leaves also shall not wither:
and look, whatever they do it shall prosper.
5. As for the ungodly, it is not so with them:
they are like the chaff which the wind scatters.
6. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand up at the judgement:
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
7. For the Lord cares for the way of the righteous:
but the way of the ungodly shall perish.



A reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians 15 12-20

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ — whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.



Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. Hear the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 6 17-26

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus came down with the twelve and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and

those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.

Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

The Gospel of the Lord Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



Sentence

Blessed are you when people hate you on account of the Son of man. Rejoice and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. Luke 6.23

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.

The LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. Happy are those who delight in the law of the LORD. They are like trees planted by streams of water.

To often we think trusting in Jesus means everything will be rosy and bliss. There is a world out there that hates anything good. How we live for righteousness sake makes us prophets for



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FOR
SERVING
GOD



today. Living for what is good and kind and caring shows the world that God lives. Blessed means we live a life worth living. Our well-being comes from God Himself. Draw near to God and He will be evident in our lives. Not only is this a blessing to you, but vicariously many others are blessed despite the abusers.

prayer-time 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. For all those recovering from natural disasters, war, famine and loss we pray for safe shelters and provision and protection for those affected and for those still in the path of danger. We give thanks for the ongoing peace in Gaza and pray for those being returned to their families.

We pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer, Cathy M, Pratibha K, Jeanette B, Lynn H, Barbara A, Jo M, Barbara W, Sue Mc, Griselda, Patrusca, Lorraine, Rachel (Bill *& Margarets

daughter), Steve, Ebony, 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, Pat V, Brenda, Joanie, Jo, Jan, Joy I, Jac B; Eileen, Ursula P, Tom A, Nicholas & Ben; Sue & Frank G, Emily and her family; Trish S, 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

Righteous God,
you challenge the powers that rule this world
and you show favour to the oppressed:
instil in us a true sense of justice,
that we may discern the signs of your kingdom
and strive for right to prevail;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord,
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 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.....

