



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

23RD March 2025

Second Sunday in Lent

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.

Let us prepare our table with thanksgiving and prayer as we continue the Lenten Season, 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.**



A football player may only wear a certain pair of socks in their main game and a racing driver may have an 8 ball on his key ring. Superstition makes people feel safe even if the circumstances may be unfavourable. Here in Luke people are contending with a faith that is embedded in superstition. They are following God but trusting in rabbits feet.

People had died in catastrophic situations. They asked were these people worse sinners than us. Jesus said, no. Die or not, our choice to follow God's grace (repent) is what counts. Sin or not, the evidence of our faith comes by what we show forth in our 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 prophet Isaiah 55: 1-9



Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and

commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Hear the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalms 63:1-9 — A.P.B.A. page 284

- 1 O God you are my God: eagerly will I seek you.
- 2 My soul thirsts for you my flesh longs for you:
as a dry and thirsty land where no water is.
- 3 So it was when I beheld you in the sanctuary:
and saw your power and your glory.
- 4 For your unchanging goodness is better than life:
therefore my lips shall praise you.
- 5 And so I will bless you as long as I live:
and in your name will I lift my hands on high.
- 6 My longing shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness:
my mouth shall praise you with exultant lips.
- 7 When I remember you upon my bed:
when I meditate upon you in the night watches,
- 8 How you have been my helper:
then I sing for joy in the shadow of your wings,
- 9 Then my soul clings to you:
and your right hand upholds me.



A reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians 10 1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These

things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

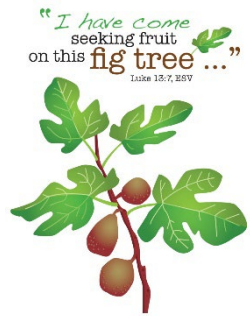
Hear the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 13:1-9

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them — do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"



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

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Printed at the Anglican Benedictine Abbey, Camperdown. 3260. www.anglicanbenedictine.org.au

Sentence

'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts,' says the Lord. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near. Isaiah 55:6

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.

1 Corinthians 10:1, I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers and sisters,

Isaiah 55:6, Seek the LORD while he may be found.



the circumstances and the consequences around our lives and others. Then learn from them. How to understand and be wise in the future and where God's word helps us. This builds faith where superstition has no room. Isaiah says when we learn from God we discover that He has ways and thoughts that surpass ours yet are available to us.

prayer-time time We pray for the world, remembering especially the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine, Africa and the Middle East, we pray for a ceasefire and for peace in all areas of conflict and war.



We remember all those recovering from the storm and floods in Queensland and NSW and give thanks for all those assisting in the recovery and rebuild in those areas.

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 give thanks for the life work and witness of Fr Dennis Eales, now safely home with his Lord and at peace. May he Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory, Amen.

We pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer, Mary and family, Lisa W, Jan Y, Michael, Andrew, Jo, Colin Cathy M, Pratibha K, Jeanette B, Lynn H, Barbara A, Jo M, Barbara W, Sue Mc, Griselda, Patrusca, Lorraine, Rachel, Steve, Ebony, Jean T, Nicole, David, Takooi, 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

O God, the fountain of life,
to a humanity parched with thirst
you offer the living water that springs from the Rock,
our Saviour Jesus Christ:
stir up within your people the gift of your Spirit,
that we may profess our faith with freshness and
announce with joy the wonder of your love.
We ask this through 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 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.....

