



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

16th March 2025

Second Sunday in Lent

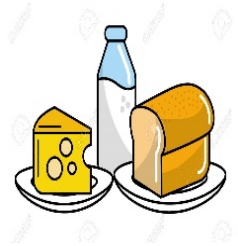
Let us sit and watch Songs of Praise together on the ABC



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.**



Sometimes it doesn't matter what you do or say, you are not believed. People can interpret faith in God in many ways. Someone may point out a truth of relating with God that challenges the status quo. Instead of discerning if this true, the default approach is to feel threatened.

Jesus was healing people and preaching God's reality in context with the scriptures, but the religious just wouldn't buy it. They had taken the grace of God and made it into a chore. They had been comfortable doing this for centuries. That's why when prophets came to tell the people of a faith in God's freedom, the powers-to-be killed them.



. 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**



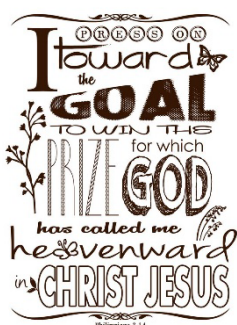
Let us read and reflect on our cycle of readings. A reading from the Book of Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are



able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, Hear the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalms 27 — A.P.B.A. page 246

- 1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?: the Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- 2 When the wicked even my enemies and my foes come upon me to devour me: they shall stumble and fall.
- 3 If an army encamp against me my heart shall not be afraid: and if war should rise against me yet will I trust.
- 4 One thing I have asked from the Lord which I will require:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
- 5 To see the fair beauty of the Lord: and to seek his will in his temple.
- 6 For he will hide me under his shelter in the day of trouble:
and conceal me in the shadow of his tent and set me high upon a rock.
- 7 And now he will lift up my head: above my enemies round about me.
- 8 And I will offer sacrifices in his sanctuary with exultation:
I will sing, I will sing praises to the Lord.
- 9 O Lord hear my voice when I cry: have mercy upon me and answer me.
- 10 My heart has said of you 'Seek his face': your face Lord I will seek.
- 11 Do not hide your face from me: or thrust your servant aside in displeasure;
- 12 For you have been my helper: do not cast me away or forsake me O God of my salvation.
- 13 Though my father and my mother forsake me: the Lord will take me up.
- 14 Teach me your way O Lord: and lead me in an even path for they lie in wait for me.
- 15 Do not give me over to the will of my enemies: for false witnesses have risen against me and those who breathe out violence.
- 16 But I believe that I shall surely see the goodness of the Lord: in the land of the living.
- 17 O wait for the Lord stand firm and he will strengthen your heart: and wait I say for the Lord.



A reading from the Letter to the Philippians 3:17- 4:1 Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my

brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 13 31-35

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."'



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

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Sentence

Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 3.20

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.

Psalms 37:11, Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

Luke 13:34, Jerusalem, ... How often have I desired to gather your children together, ... and you were not willing!

The people preferred to live in a religion of bondage. That is despite a faith of freedom so aptly laid out in the scriptures before them. In the Gospels, Jesus often pointed this out. The blind leading the blind, the jealous vineyard workers etc. God sent Jesus into this cauldron of blindness knowing they would soon kill him. Their stubborn hearts played into God's hands to break sin and death and bring us into a life of faith so fresh and free. It is why Jesus cried for Jerusalem, the city that was meant to be a beacon for God, kills its own prophets. With God, His grief was real. Soon, He will bring us new life.



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.

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 healing and



restoration for their communities, trusting in Your power to bring peace and protection to all in times of trouble. Amen.

We pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer, Michael, Andrew, Jo, Colin, Fr Dennis 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, 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
.....

Prayer of the Day

God of our ancestors,
whose chosen servant Abraham was given faith to obey your call and go out into the unknown:
endow your Church with such faith that we may follow you with courage; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and 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.....

