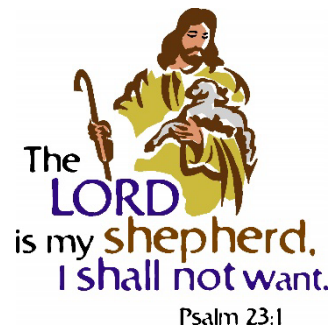




Fourth Sunday of Easter 11th May 2025
TABLE SERVICE
Let us sit and watch Songs of Praise together on the ABC
and then set the table for our Parish meal.



Christ is Risen! Alleluia!
He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!
Alleluia!

Prayerful and intentional preparation for a meal

As we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, let us define the occasion by decorating our table with a variety of bright flowers or other symbols of new life, Give some thought to the presentation of your meal as a meditation on the importance of the time you are setting aside for worship. Make it pleasing to your eye.

If you are celebrating this meal without people physically present, please be aware that **God Is With You.**



The Good Shepherd

It's easy to say we will follow Jesus, but what does this mean? Jesus says in this reading, "my sheep hear my voice, I will know them and they will follow me. So how do we know Jesus knows us and how do we hear Jesus, voice? First, Jesus knows us because as in Psalm 23 our desire is to be with Him. Being with Jesus means that we long for everything that He is to speak to our souls. It is here in our souls that we hear His voice as he brings us His virtues for living.

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 Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 9 beginning at Verse 36

36 Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas.[a] She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. 37 At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. 38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." 39 So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. 40 Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. 41 He gave her his hand and helped



her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. 42 This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. 43 Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner. [NRSV Acts 9.36–43]

Hear the word of the Lord,

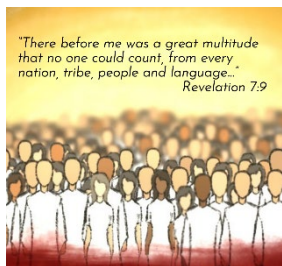
thanks be to God

Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He will make me lie down in green pastures:
and lead me beside still waters.
- 3 He will refresh my soul:
and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me
in the face of those who trouble me:
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup shall be full.
- 6 Surely your goodness and loving-kindness
will follow me all the days of my life:
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.



A reading from the Book of Revelation, Chapter 7 beginning at Verse 9



9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God
who is seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb!”

11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 singing,
“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” 14 I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. 16 They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; 17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John ,Chapter 10 beginning at verse 22

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ. 22 At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, 23 and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. 24 So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are

the Messiah, tell us plainly.” 25 Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; 26 but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. 27 My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. 30 The Father and I are one.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Sentence

The Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes

Let us now engage in some quiet reflection, or conversation and sharing, responding to the passages of scripture.. We may like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

John 10:28. I give them eternal lifeNo one will snatch them out of my hand

Revelations 7:17 He will guide them to springs of the water of life.

When we hear the voice of Jesus, we thirst for more. Jesus’ voice reveals to us the wonders of God’s love, the beauty of his grace and mercy, and the exuberance of joy that we can live in today. David says, “surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.” We follow Jesus because of His goodness and mercy, and they become part of our lives. This is the evidence that Jesus knows us and that we belong to Him. This is our salvation in real terms.



prayer-time

Now let us continue to offer our prayers for healing of the world;

Lord we ask for peace for those who need peace, reconciliation for those who need reconciliation and comfort for all who don’t know what tomorrow will bring, we ask for you to be with all our brothers and sisters in our world, remembering especially the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine, Africa and the Middle East, Gaza, we pray for a ceasefire and for peace in all areas of conflict and war.



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 alongside those in our parish asking for prayer, Ken, Lynn H, Fr Ted and family, Heather C, Neville B, Jo, Mary and family, Lisa W, Jan Y, Michael, Andrew, Jo, Colin C, Cathy M, Pratibha K, Jeanette B, 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, 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 for the Third Sunday of Easter

Gracious God,
you sent Jesus, the good shepherd,
to gather us together:
may we not wander from his flock,
but follow wherever he leads us,
listening for his voice and staying near him,
until we are safely in your fold,
to live with 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.***

***Christ is Risen! Alleluia!
He is Risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

• ***Intentional connection beyond your home***

After our Table Service, take the time to contact other people you know, especially those on their own or separated from family and friends. Start a conversation: How have you been keeping, what about this changing weather or hope you are keeping well, I was as just thinking of you and decided to call. Let God guide you to the person or persons with whom you should connect.

