

Sunday 20th July 2025 TABLE SERVICE
Let us sit and watch Songs of Praise together on the ABC
and then set the table for our Parish meal.



Prayerful and intentional preparation for a meal

As we worship at home today let us 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**.



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The question is, which woman loved Jesus any more or less than the other? The answer is neither. Have you ever wanted to know something so much that you have broken protocol to do it. Mary did just that; Jesus came to teach and Mary did not want to miss out on hearing his words. Women were not permitted to sit in on teaching in her times. We have to ask ourselves, what would it take us to get nearer to Jesus so that we hear his words?

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

A reading from the book of Amos, Chapter 8 beginning at Verse 1



8 This is what the Lord GOD showed me—a basket of summer fruit. **2** He said, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the LORD said to me, "The end has come upon my people Israel; I will never again pass them by. **3** The songs of the temple^[d] shall become wailings in that day," says the Lord GOD; "the dead bodies shall be many, cast out in every place. Be silent!"

4 Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

5 saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale?"

We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances,

6 buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

7 The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

8 Shall not the land tremble on this account, and everyone mourn who lives in it, and all of it rise like the Nile, and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?

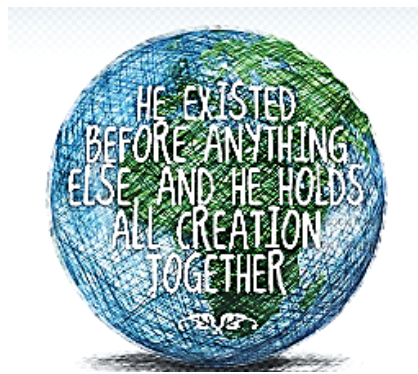
⁹ On that day, says the Lord GOD, I will make the sun go down at noon,
and darken the earth in broad daylight.
¹⁰ I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation;
I will bring sackcloth on all loins, and baldness on every head;
I will make it like the mourning for an only son, and the end of it like a bitter day.
¹¹ The time is surely coming, says the Lord GOD, when I will send a famine on the land;
not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD.
¹² They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east;
they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, but they shall not find it.
[NRSV Amos 8.1–12 Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**

Psalm 52

1 Why, you that are powerful, do you boast all the day long:
of mischief done to those that are faithful to God?
2 You contrive destroying slanders: your tongue is like a sharpened razor,
it cuts deceitfully.
3 You have loved evil, and not good: to tell lies, rather than to speak the
truth.
4 You love all words that may do hurt: and every deceit of the tongue.
5 But God will destroy you utterly: he will snatch you away
and pluck you out of your dwelling, he will uproot you from the
land of the living.
6 The righteous shall see it, and fear: they shall laugh you to scorn, and
say,
7 'Here is one who did not take God for strength: but trusted to the
abundance of riches, and found strength in slander.'
8 As for me, I am like a green olive tree in the house of God:
I will trust in the goodness of God for ever and ever.
9 I will always give you thanks, for this was your doing: I will glorify your name before the faithful,
for it is good to praise you.



A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians, Chapter 1 beginning at Verse 15



¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by

making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him— ²³ provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

²⁴ I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵ I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹ For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me.

[NRSV Colossians 1.15–29]

Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, Chapter 10 beginning at verse 38

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴² there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

[NRSV Luke 10.38–42]



This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sentence

In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and trust shall be your strength.

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.

**And in Him all things hold together.
Christ in you, the hope of glory.**



Some think you win God's approval with hard work. Our teaching is that all we are and have in Christ comes from the Father. He freely provides it, what He requires us to do is draw near to him to "listen" to His words. As we do so His nature grows within our own souls. When we hear from God, his Spirit bears witness to our souls by making His word alive (real) in our lives.

prayer-time Now let us continue to offer our prayers for healing of the world; Lord we pray for your peace and comfort for all who don't know what tomorrow will bring, we remember especially those suffering loss in the recent floods in America, and those still being hurt in Gaza and Ukraine. We pray for a ceasefire, and for those in power to work with truth and humility to bring peace to 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. Heavenly Father, We thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Guide us with Your Spirit, Fill our hearts with Your love, and lead us to live according to Your will. Amen.

We pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer, Stephen, Anne, Madeleine, Ken, Lynn H, Jo, Neville B, Jo, Mary and family, Lisa W, Jan Y, Michael, Andrew, Colin C, Cathy M, Pratibha K, Jeanette B, Barbara A, Jo M, 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, Georgia, Pat V, Brenda, Joanie, 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.

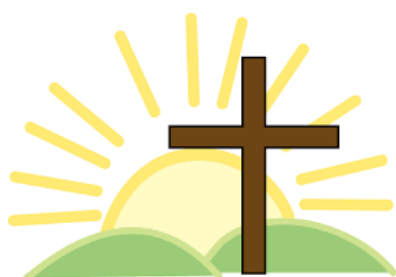
Let us say the Lord's Prayer Together.
Our Father

Prayer for Sunday

Eternal God,
you draw near to us in Christ
and make yourself our guest:
amid the cares of our daily lives,
make us attentive to your voice and alert to your presence,
that we may treasure your word above all else.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
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, 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 really cold weather, hope you are keeping warm and well or, 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.

