

**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**.



Reading this Gospel seems ludicrous. How can Jesus commend a criminal? But He is not; He is giving a picture against another situation. The dedication of a selfish man after money, to look after himself, was far greater than the dedication of the Israelites in their faithfulness to God. Yet in a twist, in His dishonesty the debtors would have given honour to the master. Jesus was expressing, that this type of shrewdness, with honesty, is what He looks for in the dedication of our faithfulness to God

**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 prophet Jeremiah Chapter 8 beginning at verse 18*

My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: "Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?" ("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?") "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people! Hear the word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*



**Psalm 79 verses 1-9**

1 O God the heathen have come in to your land: they have defiled your holy temple they have made Jerusalem a heap of stones.

2 They have given the dead bodies of your servants as food to the birds of the air: and the flesh of your faithful ones to the wild beasts of the earth.

3 Their blood they have spilt like water on every side of Jerusalem: and there is none to bury them

4 We have become a mockery to our neighbours: the scorn and laughing-stock of those about us.

5 How long O Lord shall your anger be so extreme:  
will your jealous fury burn like fire?

6 Pour out your wrath on the nations that do not know you;  
on the kingdoms that have not called upon your name.

7 For they have devoured Jacob: and made his dwelling-place a desolation.

8 Do not remember against us the sin of former times: but let your compassion hasten to meet us for we are brought very low.

9 Help us O God our saviour for the honour of your name: O deliver us and expiate our sins for your name's sake.

Help us, O God our saviour,  
cause of the glory of your name.  
Deliver us and pardon our sins  
for your name's sake.

Psalm 79:9



For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. 1 Timothy 2:5-6

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human,

who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. I desire, then, that in every place the men should pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or argument; also that the women should dress themselves modestly and decently in suitable clothing, not with their hair braided, or with gold, pearls, or expensive clothes, but with good works, as is proper for women who profess reverence for God. Hear the word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God*

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, Chapter 16 beginning at the first verse*  
*Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.*

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he



asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are shrewder in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

For the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Sentence**

You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:9

*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.*

**The children of this age are shrewder in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light.**

**Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much.**

Jesus is challenging us, asking, how much do we value what He has for us? Are we willing to do God's will "whatever it takes," not only to be blessed but that others may be blessed as well and give God the honour. You may say, I don't think I have much to offer, my faithfulness is weak. Jesus says, "that will do, start there and I will build up that seed of faithfulness." What He sees is our desire to give God what the little we have, and He will make our meagre efforts grow so much more in us. Then others will say, your master is generous and merciful.

**prayer-time** Now let us continue to offer our prayers and thanksgiving.

We pray 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 pray for all those in any form of distress because of war and strife, famine, floods, fire and storm. We pray for an end to violence and conflict in the Middle East and a successful and permanent ceasefire in Ukraine.

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, Jo, Nicolas and family as Jo continues undergoing treatment. Lynn H, Jean T, Jo, Sue and family, Stephen, Anne, Ken, Neville B, Lisa W, Jan Y,



Michael, Andrew, Colin C, Pratibha K, Jeanette B, Barbara A, Jo M, Sue Mc, Griselda, Patrusca, Lorraine, Rachel, Steve, Ebony, 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, 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

O God, you are rich in love for your people:  
show us the treasure that endures and, when we are  
tempted by greed, call us back into your service  
and make us worthy to be entrusted with the  
wealth that never fails.

We ask this through your Son, 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**



***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 think about other people you know, especially those on their own, in ill health, grieving or missing family and friends.

You can do this in prayer or by contacting them and starting a conversation:

How have you been keeping?, what about this changing 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 need to connect with.

