



TABLE SERVICE

Sunday 14th December 2025 third Sunday in Advent
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



Today is the third Sunday in Advent, a time for reflection, preparation and anticipation of the coming of Jesus. Advent is a time of prayer, fasting and giving. So, as we worship at home today let us define the occasion by adding something special to our table, acknowledging 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.**

Tell what you hear and see.

John the Baptist asked, is Jesus the real thing? We might perhaps ask the same thing, but does this answer help us today? When do we see the miracles he describes? We see them when a man blinded in unforgiveness finds Jesus forgiveness, when someone crippled with shame finds Jesus worth, when someone marred with guilt is cleansed with Jesus love, when we were all dead in sin and Jesus gives us a life worth 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:

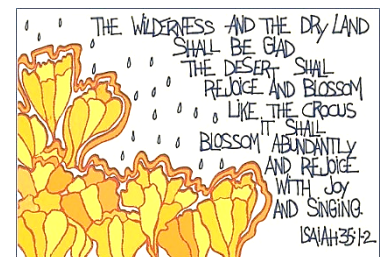
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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.

A reading from the book of Isaiah chapter 35 verses 1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing



for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Hear the word of the Lord.

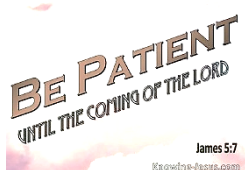
Thanks be to God.

For the Psalm: The Magnificat —

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
who has looked with favour on his lowly servant:
from this day all generations will call me blessed;
the Almighty has done great things for me: and holy is his name.
God has mercy on those who fear him:
from generation to generation.
The Lord has shown strength with his arm:
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
Casting down the mighty from their thrones:
and lifting up the lowly.
God has filled the hungry with good things:
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel:
to remember the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever.



A reading from the letter of James Chapter 5 verses 7-10



Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is

standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

***The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew Chapter 11 verses 2-11
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ***

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor

have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'



Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sentence

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. Matthew 11.11

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.

**Go back and report to John what you hear and see.
Yet even the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.**



What is it worth to have new eyes or legs, but our hearts cannot see Jesus and our souls have no desire to walk with Him. John the Baptist may have been great in Jesus opinion, but He sees the one who needs Him the most, this one is even greater than John. The one who has nothing yet finds everything he needs in Christ, this one's faith has found an unimaginable greatness.

prayer-time

Brothers and sisters, as we joyfully await the glorious coming of the Christ, let us pray for the needs of the church, our community, and the world, and offer thanksgiving. to God for his steadfast love of his children. We pray for all those still in danger as fire threatens .Grant safety to those under evacuation orders. In your mercy, bring relief to affected areas and protect both life and property. Give strength to all those working to rescue others and to help all in need. And may our response to their suffering be generous and bring you praise. in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



We pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer, We give thanks for the success of Cathys surgery we pray for success in Jo's treatment and continue to pray for freedom from pain and healing for them. Lorraine, Sue, Margaret P, Trish S Kay & Chris DeVries Lynn H, Jean T, 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; Christina and any others we wish to remember, either silently or aloud.....***Let us say the Lord's Prayer Together.***

Our Father

The Collect

Sustain us, O God, with the power of your love
on our journey to meet the One who is coming:
strengthen our weak hands,
make firm our feeble knees,
and open blind eyes to the dawning of your kingdom,
so that our hearts may rejoice
as we behold the majesty of our God.
We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and 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 spend some time reaching out to others. You can do this in prayer or by contacting them directly. It can be 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 God guide you to the person or persons with whom you should connect. Contact them. Start a conversation: How have you been keeping, what about this changing weather or hope you are keeping well, or I was just thinking of you and decided to call.

