



TABLE SERVICE Sunday 7th December 2025
Second 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 Second Sunday in Advent, a time for reflection, preparation and anticipation of the coming of Jesus. Often 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**.



Hearts Prepared for the Way

What is preparation for Advent? John the Baptist calls the people to be prepared for the coming of the Lord, to be baptised and cleansed from sin. For us today it is not enough, simply to remember our own baptism. The whole point of Jesus coming is to break the curse of sin once and for all. That curse is a spiritual death and there is only one who can ignite a spiritual life within us. This is why John says Jesus will baptise us in the Holy Spirit and with fire. The Pharisees and religious leaders were full of chaff, but they were not prepared to be winnowed. They were not prepared to receive.



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 Isaiah Chapter 11, v 1-10

On that day: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the



bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Psalms 72 1-7 18-19

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
2 May he judge your people with righteousness
and your poor with justice.
3 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.
5 May he live while the sun endures
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.
7 In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
18 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.
19 Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may his glory fill the whole earth.
Amen and Amen.

Blessed be the LORD God, ...
Who only doeth wondrous things.

Psalms 72:18



A reading from the letter to the Romans: Ch 15, v 4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew Chapter 3, v 1-12 Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judaea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt



around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judaea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abra-ham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptise you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

Sentence

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news. Mark 1.15

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.

**That you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Bear fruit worthy of repentance.**

Repentance is knowing that we cannot save ourselves in any way. Repentance is acknowledging that only Jesus has the power to give us life, in which he does the cleansing. This life that is so often mentioned in the Bible affirms in our hearts that we truly do belong to God. We now live in and for His kingdoms rule. A rule where we abide in love and grace and forgiveness. This is the seal that is branded on our hearts by the Holy Spirits fire. This is God's purpose when a baby was born in an animal trough. Advent is about a life that brings everlasting new life to us all. If we are prepared to receive it.



prayer-time

Now let us continue to offer our prayers and thanksgiving. Merciful Lord, we offer a prayer for your peace to be with all those who have suffered and continue to do so as a result of injustice, conflict and war. We pray for peace and hope to abound in all these places. 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, 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

God of all peoples,
whose servant John came baptising
and calling for repentance:
help us to hear his voice of judgement,
that we may also rejoice in his word of promise,
and be found pure and blameless
in that glorious Day when Christ comes
to rule the earth as Prince of Peace;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for 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.

