



**TABLE SERVICE**  
**Epiphany 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
**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***

Sometimes we eat, in front of the TV either together or alone; we eat on the run; we eat out in restaurants or even in our car; but today we sit at a table that we have set for our Sunday lunch meal. It is our everyday altar of life-giving food. Let us prepare our tables with thanksgiving and prayer adding those special gifts or items to remind us of God's precious gift to mankind. If you are celebrating this meal alone please be aware that Emmanuel, God is with you.



Have you ever had a hunch and followed the clues and found out you were right. Three years have passed since the stable birth. Joseph must have found work in Bethlehem and they lived in a house now. Who knows when the Magi started their travels, but they were overjoyed when they got there.

Jesus was there, and He matched everything they believed he was. They bowed down and gave him homage, which means they gave Jesus the respect that was due to Him.

***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 60:1-6***

*Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.*

*A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord. Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.***



### **Psalm 72:1-7,10-14**

1 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.  
10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute,  
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.  
11 May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him  
service.  
12 For he delivers the needy when they call,  
the poor and those who have no helper.  
13 He has pity on the weak and the needy,  
and saves the lives of the needy.  
14 From oppression and violence he redeems their life;  
and precious is their blood in his sight.



### **A reading from the letter to the Ephesians Chapter 3:1-12**



This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former

generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make every-one see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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

## ***A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew Chapter 2:1-12***

### ***Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ***

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were over-whelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



*This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

### ***Sentence***

*They saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and worshipped him.*

### ***responding to the passage***

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

### ***They were overwhelmed with joy.***



We too have been overwhelmed with Joy like the wise men as we sought and found Jesus and in discovering Him we realise he is truly our messiah (Saviour) and king, ruler of our hearts and lives. We too have become His people. and His rule is like that of a Shepherd. And our homage is to live following all his commandments in the knowledge of his sacrifice for us.

### ***Prayer-time***

Now let us continue to offer our prayers for healing of the world; for those affected by natural disasters, war and conflict; 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:- Cathy, Jo, 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***

Eternal God, who by a star led Magi to the worship of your Son: guide the nations of the earth by your light, that the whole world may see your glory; 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**



***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. Those who may be alone or missing seeing their families and loved ones during the Christmas Season. Let God guide you to the person or persons with whom you should connect. Use the time to catch up with your family and friends and share with others the Joy of Christmas and the promise of the New Year.

