



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE
11th January 2026 Baptism of our Lord
Let us watch Songs of Praise together on the ABC and then set the table for our shared meal.



Setting our table for our Sunday lunch service.

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.



Today we are celebrating Baptism of our Lord . So, as we worship at home today let us define the occasion and 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 without people physically present, please be aware that **God Is With You.**

BAPTISM AN ACT OF OBEDIENCE.

Before we eat, we wash our hands as a protocol, an act of obedience, for healthy living. Jesus comes to be baptized as an act of obedience, an obedience by both John and Jesus. Jesus stresses the word "us" to John that this baptism would be an act of fulfilling all righteousness."

He was leaving the everyday world He knew. He would commit His life into what God had prepared Him for. His baptism was symbolic of this commitment. He knew that , "now," this time, was to lead Him to His death, the catalyst for our salvation. A way would be made for us to be reunited with our Father in Heaven. Is it any wonder that God spoke these words,

"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

**THERE IS
A DEEPER
MEANING
TO BAPTISM**



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 42, verses 1-9

- Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly

burning wick he will not quench; he will faith-fully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:



I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

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

Psalm 29

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven:
ascribe to the Lord glory and might.

2 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name:
O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness.

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:
the God of glory thunders, the Lord upon the great waters.

4 The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation:
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar-trees:
the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

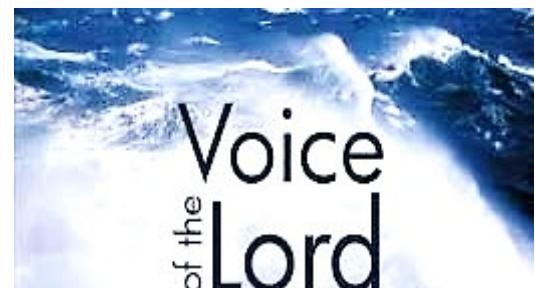
6 He makes them skip like a calf:
Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.

7 The voice of the Lord divides the lightning-flash:
the voice of the Lord whirls the sands of the desert the Lord whirls the desert of Kadesh.

8 The voice of the Lord rends the terebinth trees, and strips bare the forests:
in his temple all cry 'Glory'.

9 The Lord sits enthroned above the water-flood:
the Lord sits enthroned as a king for ever.

10 The Lord will give strength to his people:
the Lord will give his people the blessing of peace.



A reading from the Acts of the Apostles Chapter 10, verses 34-43



Peter began to speak to Cornelius and his household: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judaea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judaea

and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew Chapter 3, verses 13-17 Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptised by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptised, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."



*The Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

Sentence

The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

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.

Then John permitted Him.

God ... welcomes those from every nation who fear Him and do what is right.

At times we are called upon to do something that is not pleasant, to clean up a mess, or to fix something that was broken by somebody else. Sometimes there is a feeling of injustice, why me, why not the person who caused this in the first place? However, the work done is for the benefit of others. Jesus was entering into a mess we caused that separated us from God; it's called sin. God's plan was to use Jesus to fix it, and this would cause Him great suffering. In his baptism he was surrendering himself to the work God had anointed Him for. Our baptism is also an act of surrender of ourselves in order to do the will of God. He too, anoints us by His Spirit to do the work He has for us, whatever the cost. And God calls this obedience righteousness.



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 for those in WA NSW and Victoria who are experiencing bush fires amid the heat wave and devastating winds; for those in north Queensland where heavy rains flooding are

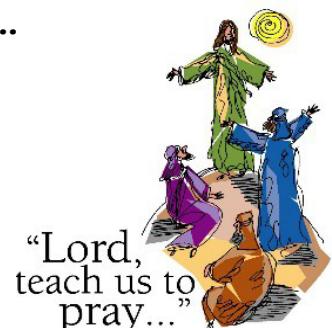
impacting many people and business in various ways. Grant safety to those under evacuation orders; bring relief to affected areas and protect both life and property; Give strength to all those working to rescue the stranded and to help all in need. And may our response to their suffering be generous and bring you praise. in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

We pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer:- David B, 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

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: grant that all who are baptised into his name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Saviour; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in ***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, make contact with others who may be alone or missing seeing their families and loved ones during the Christmas Season. Wish them a Blessed and Safe New Year, remind them of the Joy of Christmas and the promise of a brighter and better future in 2026. 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 hot weather or hope you are keeping well, or I was just thinking of you and decided to call.

