

**SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**Let us watch Songs of Praise together.  
on the ABC and then set the table  
for our shared meal.**

**LENT**  
Pray + Fast + Give

**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.



Let us prepare our table with thanksgiving and prayer as we worship during the Lenten Season, 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.**

Has what you prayed for not worked out as you have expected? Sometimes in our haste to pray we can fall into dictating to God just how our prayers should be answered. Mary and Martha's faith was strong but they wanted an answer to their prayers sooner than later and for good reason. Jesus' compassion for us is ever so real yet He sees the spiritual significance when we are confined in the natural.



**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 Ezekiel Chapter 37:1-14**



The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.

Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come

from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord. Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 130—APBA 364**

1 Out of the depths have I called to you O Lord: Lord hear my voice;

**2 O let your ears consider well: the voice of my supplication.**

3 If you Lord should note what we do wrong: who then O Lord could stand?

**4 But there is forgiveness with you: so that you shall be feared.**

5 I wait for the Lord my soul waits for him: and in his word is my hope.

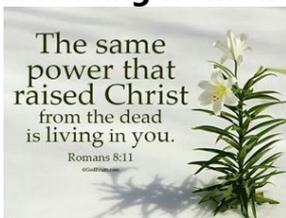
**6 My soul looks for the Lord: more than watchmen for the morning, more I say than watchmen for the morning.**

7 O Israel trust in the Lord for with the Lord there is mercy; and with him is ample redemption.

**8 He will redeem Israel: from the multitude of their sins.**



### **A reading from the Letter to the Romans Chapter 8:6-11**



To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law — indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead

because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John Chapter 11:1-45**

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

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judaea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told

them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked up-ward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.



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

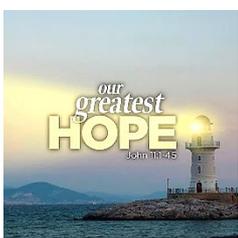
**Sentence:**

I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord; 'whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.' John 11:25-26

*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.*

**I wait for the Lord my soul waits for him: and in his word is my hope**

**Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world.**



Mary and Martha said to Jesus, you could have, you should have, so why didn't you. Have you ever felt like God is not listening? Perhaps time has lapsed and hope seems lost? Jesus calls us to trust in Him, to understand that He has a purpose always brings glory to God and restores our faith even if there is heartache and pain. He sees our grief and knows our frustration. He says take me to the tomb of hopelessness and I will give your faith new life.

**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 all those affected by the recent cyclone in Northern Queensland, those evacuated from their homes, those cut off by floods and for emergency service workers who are assisting wherever needed. We pray for a peaceful resolution to the escalating conflict in the Middle East now affecting so many countries.

*God of mercy, look with compassion on all who are affected by the present conflict. Grant insight to hardened hearts, comfort to the fearful, protection to those in danger, and hope to those who are despairing. Encourage all leaders to come together for the common good, working towards a peaceful resolution that does not follow individual agendas. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Please pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer.**



we continue to pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer Trish, Ann W, Joy I, 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, Kathryn and Keiran, Ruth, Jean N, Georgia, Pat V, Brenda, Joanie, Jan, 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**

Life-giving God,  
your Son came into the world to free us from sin and death:  
breathe on us with the power of your Spirit,  
that we may be raised to new life in Christ,  
and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **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 family and friends who may be alone or who you may not have talked with for a while. Let God guide you to the person or persons with whom you should connect. Contact them. Start a conversation: How have you been keeping, or hope you are keeping well, or I was just thinking of you and decided to call.

