



Sunday 3rd May 2026
SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

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

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!
He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!



Prayerful and intentional preparation for a meal

As we continue to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus let us define the occasion by decorating our table with a variety of things that represent new beginnings, new ways and growth. If you are celebrating this meal without people physically present, please be aware that **God Is With You.**



BUT HOW DO WE KNOW THE WAY? Have you been driving on a highway and got frustrated because the lack of signs to tell you where you're going? The Disciples had this problem, unsure how to know the way to God. Jesus said if you know me, you'll know the Father. The longer we go down his path the more we know we are going the right way, so we know the truth in this way because God is becoming more real to us. Jesus' way, is not the way to life, it is the way of life that is worth living. The more we follow Christ's nature the more we know a Spiritual life in God and He in us.



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

Let us read and reflect on our cycle of readings.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles Chapter 7, verses 55-60

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then



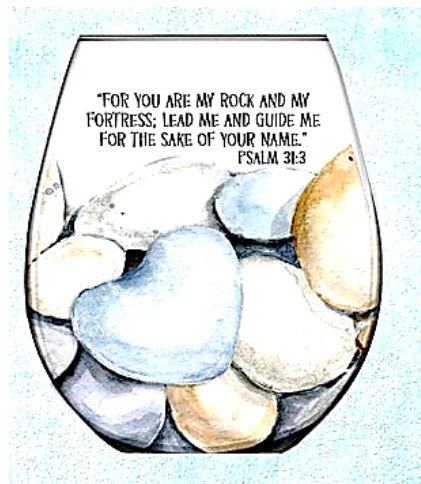
"Lord, do not charge them with this sin!"

he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."
When he had said this, he died.
Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31 Verses 1-5, 17-18

1 To you Lord have I come for shelter:
let me never be put to shame.
2 O deliver me in your righteousness:
incline your ear to me and be swift to save me.
3 Be for me a rock of refuge a fortress to defend me:
for you are my high rock and my stronghold.
4 Lead me and guide me for your name's sake:
bring me out of the net that they have secretly laid for me
for you are my strength.
5 Into your hands I commit my spirit:
you will redeem O Lord God of truth.
17 All my days are in your hand"
O deliver me from the power of my enemies and from my persecutors.
18 Make your face to shine upon your servant:
and save me for your mercy's sake.



A reading from the First Letter of Peter Chapter 2, verses 11-25

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. Conduct yourselves honourably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honourable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge. For the Lord's sake accept the authority of every human institution, whether of the emperor as supreme, or of governors, as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish. As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. Honour everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honour the emperor. Slaves, accept the authority of your masters with all deference, not only those who are kind and gentle but also those who are harsh. For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because



Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been

healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

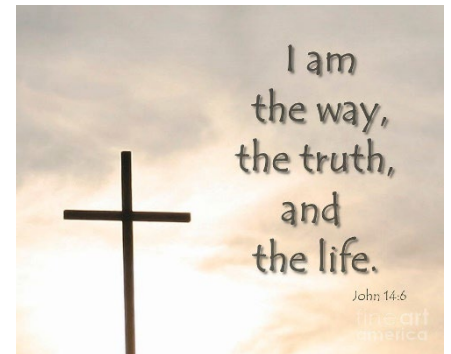
The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John Chapter 14, verses 1-14

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Sentence

'I am the way, and the truth, and the life,' says the Lord. 'No one comes to the Father except through me.' John 14.6

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.

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me.

Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.



Thomas asked a very honest question. How can we know the way? Philip asked, show us the Father and we will be satisfied? They were looking for the road signs when all along they were on the right road. Faith is trusting that the road we are on, the Jesus way, leading us in the right direction. Following this way, reveals to us the truth that makes this Spiritual life worth living. Our Father God becomes a relatable reality, enhancing us with His Spirit. He is no longer just a mirage we keep hoping to reach without direction.

prayer-time

Now let us continue to offer our prayers for healing of the world; especially 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 continue to pray for a peaceful resolution to the escalating conflict in the Middle East and for cease-fires in Lebanon and Ukraine to begin and be maintained.

We continue to pray for those in our parish asking for prayer Rev Beck and family, Jo and family, Trish, Suzi, Nicole, Richard and family, Rachel, :Ann W, Joy I, David B, Cathy, Lorraine, Sue, Margaret P, 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, 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.

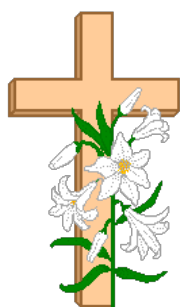
Our Father



Prayer for fourth Sunday of Easter

Everliving God, who called your Church to witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:
help us so to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be reconciled to you;
through him who died and rose again
and reigns with you and 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.***

***Christ is Risen! Alleluia!
He is Risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Intentional connection beyond your home

After the Table Service, take the time to contact other people you know, especially those on their own or separated from family and friends. Wish them the blessings of Easter and share with them the Joy of the Resurrection, Let God guide you to the person or persons with whom you should connect. Contact them. Start a conversation: Happy Easter!, How have you been keeping, what about this changing weather or hope you are keeping well, was just thinking of you and decided to call.



