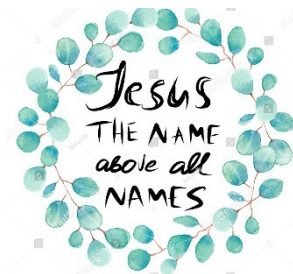




SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE 27th September 2026

***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.

As we worship at home today let us 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.**



Jesus asks a question that is a no brainer. Who would you trust, someone who said yes but didn't help or someone who said no but did help. In this Gospel people try to manipulate the conversation to support their own agenda. Jesus wouldn't buy into it. The world is full of argument, people picking sides with aspersions of shame if you don't agree with them. As people belonging to God, Jesus shows us that just being his people is enough we don't have to prove we belong to Him. By his Spirit He shines through our lives if we let Him.



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,

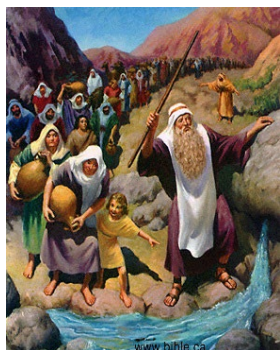
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen

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.

First Reading Exod. 17:1-7



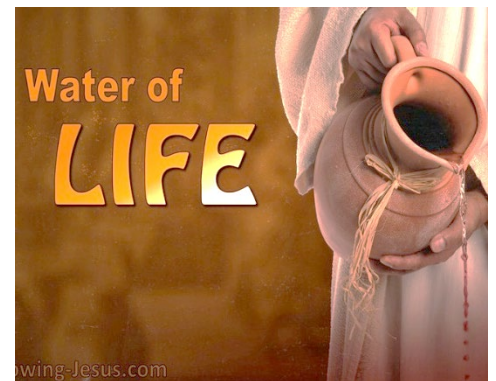
From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall Moses do?,

"Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may

drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?" Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to Go**

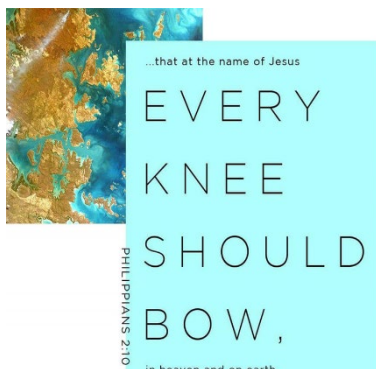
Psalm 78.1-4, 11-16 — A.P.B.A. page 301

1 Give heed to my teaching O my people: incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
2 For I will open my mouth in a parable: and expound the mysteries of former times.
3 What we have heard and known: what our forbears have told us,
4 We will not hide from their children but declare to a generation yet to come: the praiseworthy acts of the Lord his mighty and wonderful works.
11 for he did marvellous things in the sight of their ancestors: in the land of Egypt in the country of Zoan.
12 He divided the sea and let them pass through:
he made the waters stand up in a heap.
13 In the daytime he led them with a cloud:
and all night long with the light of fire.
14 He cleft rocks in the wilderness: and gave them drink in abundance as from springs of water.
15 He brought streams out of the rock:
and caused the waters to flow down like rivers.
16 But for all this they sinned yet more against him:
and rebelled against the Most High in the desert.



A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians Chapter 2

1-13 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.



Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

14- Do all things without murmuring and arguing, so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. It is by your holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labour in vain. But even if I am being poured out as a libation over the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you—and in the same way you also must be glad and rejoice with me.

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I may be cheered by news of you. I have no one like him who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. All of them are seeking

their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But Timothy's worth you know, how like a son with a father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. I hope therefore to send him as soon as I see how things go with me; and I trust in the Lord that I will also come soon.

Still, I think it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus—my brother and co-worker and fellow soldier, your messenger and minister to my need; for he has been longing for all of you, and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. He was indeed so ill that he nearly died. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, so that I would not have one sorrow after another.

I am the more eager to send him, therefore, in order that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. Welcome him then in the Lord with all joy, and honour such people, because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for those services that you could not give me. Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew Chapter 21 23-32

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I

will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think?

A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go.

Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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

Sentence Come, let us return to the Lord, that we may live before him.

Hosea 6.1a,2b

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.

John came to you in a righteous way and you did not believe him.

By what authority are You doing these things?"



They asked Jesus under who's authority does he operate... Jesus did incredibly good things, bringing restoration, healing and hope to a wounded world. This was His evidence enough, He didn't need to justify his actions. This is the incredible thing, when we do His will with lasting beautiful consequences they speak for themselves.

They speak of the work of God's Spirit, absolute and true. It is the voice of God who says "I Am," to a world in conflict and strife. Do we buy into this world or do we buy into a world of God's peace and grace as Jesus offers.

prayer-time Now let us continue to offer our prayers and thanksgiving.

We pray for healing of the world; Lord we ask for peace for those who need peace, reconciliation for those who need reconciliation and comfort for all who don't know what tomorrow will bring, we pray for all those in any form of distress because of the natural disasters around the world due to floods, fire and storm. 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 continue to pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer: Bob and Sue, Tim and Ruth, Lyn H Joy I, Cathy M, Jo and family, Sue Mack, Peter G, Morgan, Rev Beck and family, Trish, Suzi, Nicole, Richard and family, Rachel, Ann W, David B, Lorraine, Margaret P, Kay & Chris DeVries, Jean T, Stephen, Anne, Ken, Neville B, Lisa W, Jan Y, Michael, Andrew, Pratibha K, Jeanette B, Barbara A, Jo M, 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 of the Day

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 the Table Service, take the time to contact other people you know, especially those on their own, who maybe unwell, or recovering.. Ask how they are, or see if they would appreciate a visit. Let the Holy Spirit guide you to the person or persons with whom you should connect. Pray for them. Contact them. Start a conversation. How have you been keeping, what about this lovely spring weather, are you OK, or hope you are keeping well, was just thinking of you and decided to call.

