

SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE 18th October 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 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 was challenged over paying taxes. His response was, give to the emperor what is the emperor's and give to God what is God's. So, what is it that we have that belongs to God, that we ought to give to Him?



Jesus says He has come to give us life and life more abundantly. A Spiritual life that is liberatin,g freeing us from the tyranny of constant repatriation because of sin. Sins price is death. Jesus gave up His own life to break this curse. Now what Jesus asks of us, is to surrender our lives to God. To give Him everything we are, the good, the bad and the scars of shame. Our lives for His life so we can live the abundant life God has always planned for us to have. (See also Romans 6:10-11)

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 book of Exodus Chapter 33 verses 12-23
Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favour in my sight.' Now if I have found favour in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you
and find favour in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favour in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every on the face of the earth." The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favour in my sight, and I know by name." Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before



you the name, 'The Lord'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."
Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 99 — A.P.B.A. page 325



1 The Lord is king let the nations tremble:
he is enthroned upon the cherubim let the earth quake.
2 The Lord is great in Zion: he is high above all nations.
3 Let them praise your great and terrible name:
for holy is the Lord.
4 The Mighty One is king and loves justice: you have established equity
you have dealt righteousness and justice in Jacob.
5 O exalt the Lord our God:
and bow down before his footstool for he is holy.
6 Moses and Aaron among his priests
and Samuel among those who call upon his name: they called to the Lord and he answered.
7 He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud:
they kept to his teachings and the law that he gave them.
8 You answered them O Lord our God:
you were a forgiving God to them and pardoned their wrong doing.
9 O exalt the Lord our God:
and bow down towards his holy hill for the Lord our God is holy.

A reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians Chapter 1 verses 1-10
Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead — Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.



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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew Chapter 22 verses 15-33
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

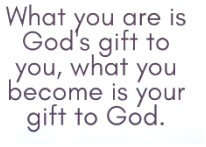


Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's."
When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away. The same day some Sadducees came to him, saying there is no resurrection; and they asked him a question, saying, "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies childless, his brother shall marry the widow, and raise up children for his brother.' Now there were seven brothers among us; the first married, and died childless, leaving the widow to his brother. The second did the same, so also the third, down to the seventh. Last of all, the woman herself died. In the resurrection, then, whose wife of the seven will she be? For all of them had married her." Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is God not of the dead, but of the living." And when the crowd heard it, they were astounded at his teaching.
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sentence Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. Matthew 22.21

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.

You became imitators .... of the Lord, ... you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit,
You turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God.



Giving to God what is God's means to surrender. To give up to him our life full of our human fallibilities. In return He fills our lives with healing, hope and Himself. Our old for His new, that's not a bad trade in! We cannot earn this gift of life. He, in effect, bought our lives with the life of his son, Jesus. Yet, He doesn't demand it, He actually waits for us to surrender our lives to Him. We give to God voluntarily what is His. It is then that the power in the spiritual life can be ignited. We then know and become His advocates of love and peace and joy. His life giving presence radiates within us.

prayer-time 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. For all those affected by war and conflict.
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: we give thanks for the life work and witness of Jo Gunn and pray for her husband Nicholas and their two daughters, for Chris G hand wider family , for Ann W praying for freedom from pain, Bob and family as they grieve, Lyn H Joy I, Cathy M, Sue Mack, Peter G, Morgan, Rev Beck and family, Trish, Suzi, Nicole, Richard and family, Rachel, 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
Almighty and everlasting God,
in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations:
grant that your Church throughout the world
may persevere with steadfast faith
in proclaiming the cross to be the way that leads to life eternal
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and 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 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. …….

