

SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE 25th October 2023

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.**

Have you ever had someone try to trip you up with your words? They try to manipulate what you say to prove you wrong. The religious leaders in Jesus' day are relentless at this. Somehow, they must try to discredit Jesus and do it publicly. He was showing them that Grace was greater than the law, they did not like this. So, what is the greatest commandment in the law? Jesus told them, Love God with everything you are, heart, soul and mind. Then He adds for good measure, and you must love your neighbour as yourself. The point is even if our capacity is small, love God anyway. Then we will begin to see that He loves us infinitely more that we could imagine. That's a love worth knowing.



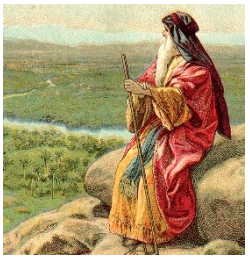
Be still and silent. Visualise in your mind, those whom you invited to share with you. Pray:

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 Deuteronomy Chapter 34 verses 1-12

Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain — that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees — as far as Zoar. The Lord said to him, "Thisis the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there." Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord's command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Bethpeor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigour had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains



of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended. Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses. Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.
Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 90:1-6,13-17 — *A.P.B.A. page 318*
1 Lord you have been our refuge: from one generation to another.
2 Before the mountains were born or the earth and the world were brought to be:
from eternity to eternity you are God.
3 You turn us back into dust: saying 'Return to dust O children of Adam.'
4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday passing: or like one watch of the night.
5 You cut them short like a dream: like the fresh grass of the morning;
6 In the morning it is green and flourishes: at evening it is withered and dried up.
13 Relent O Lord, how long will you be angry? take pity on your servants.
14 O satisfy us early with your mercy:
that all our days we may rejoice and sing.
15 Give us joy for all the days you have afflicted us:
for the years we have suffered adversity.
16 Show your servants your work:
and let their children see your glory.
17 May the gracious favour of the Lord our God be upon us:
prosper the work of our hands
O prosper the work of our hands!



A reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians Chapter 2 verses 1-13
You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in



our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us. You remember our labour and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers. As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when
you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.
Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew Chapter 22 verses 34-46
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ



When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,
'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Sentence You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.
Matthew 22.37-40

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.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.
We speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts.

If beginning to love God opens us up to realising that there is no beginning or end to His love for us: Then we understand that with His love we can love ourselves in a healthy way. In other words we see ourselves through Jesus eyes. Then we can love others the same way too. One thing leads



to the next. The longer we continue this way of living the greater this love becomes in all aspects of our lives. Then the greater we understand God's love. The problem with the Pharisees was that they loved the law first but all the law is, is a rule book, and there is no place for love in a rule book. Love must come from being written in our hearts by God since the dawn of creation.

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 give thanks for the life work and witness of Ann Wilson, St Nicholas, who passed away peacefully on Friday morning, pray for Georgia Sunara and the rest of the family as they grieve, May Ann rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

We continue to pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer: pray for Nicholas and his two daughters, for Chris G , f 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

O God,
whose Son has taught us that love is the fulfilment of your law:
stir up within us the fire of your Holy Spirit,
and pour into our hearts your greatest gift of love,
so that we may love you with our whole being,
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with 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.



•***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. …….

