



A Table Liturgy for the Easter Season Grounded in John's Gospel

Evidence indicates that in the early church people gathered for worship in homes, over meals. You are invited to print out this Table liturgy for the Easter Season and utilise it for worship over a meal either alone, or with others, at home. This simple worship service is grounded in John's Gospel. It focuses on Jesus' words, declared in the midst of ministry that he is the bread of life and the true vine. While the liturgy includes bread and juice, it does not include Holy Communion. John's Gospel does not include an account of the last supper Eucharist.

This liturgy includes prayers, pauses, spaces for song, for personal reflection and for shared discussion if you are eating with others. If you are engaging in this worship alone, you may wish to have pencil and paper on the table, so that after the Gospel reading you can write or sketch about your ideas, questions and insights as you eat. In preparation for this worship you are invited to gather a candle, bread and juice, a bible and some tea light candles if you would like to light them during the prayers for others.

A Table Liturgy for Times of Isolation

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

We greet you Blessed God

Holy Mystery, Holy Word, Holy Flame

a candle is lit

Your life is stronger than death

Your love is stronger than hate

Your peace is stronger than all violence

Source of all our endings and beginnings

We praise you

Jesus, our crucified and risen healer

We praise you

Spirit holy, our truth and our freedom

We praise you

a moment of stillness

While the disciples were still weighed down by fear and dismay, Jesus stood by a fire on the beach and called out to them:

'Come and have breakfast'

(John 21.12)

Our God meets us in our fear and our faith, our doubt and our hope – so rest in Divine love:

a moment of stillness

a song or hymn may be sung

Jesus says: 'I am the bread of life: whoever comes to me will never be hungry' (John 6.35)

**Jesus, Bread of life,
we praise you for your nourishment
and healing**

bread is shared

Liturgy continued P2



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We give thanks too, for the gift of food we will now share.

*a moment of stillness
a song or hymn may be sung*

**We pray that the day will soon dawn
when all will live in justice and mercy so
that there is enough food for everyone.
Please strengthen us to work with you for
this.**

As we leave this table,
we know that you go with us.

And so we bless ourselves,
and one another, with your blessing:

Enjoying eating

*You may like to read the Gospel text
for this week and discuss, or ponder,
your reactions, thoughts, questions and
insights.*

*You may like to reflect on recent
experiences of the presence of God in
your life, or experiences of resurrection in
your community.*

Jesus says: 'I am the vine, you are the
branches, those who abide in me and I in
them, bear much fruit' (John 15.5)

**Jesus, the true vine,
may your divine life cascade in ours,
growing us up in love**

juice is shared

We pray for our world, naming those people
and places that are aching for healing and
nourishment

*prayers for the earth are shared
candles may be lit*

Holy One – Sacred Three we praise you
for coming among us in Jesus;
embodying your beauty, truth and grace
in healing, teaching and feasting,
in serving, dying and rising
and for your ongoing presence with us this day.
**We praise you with the communion
of saints.**

We praise you with angels.

We praise you with all things.

**May Blessed Trinity be with us all:
may the Source of all be upholding you,
may radiant Christ be illuminating you,
may Spirit Holy be guiding you,
every step that you take in this stormy
world.**

In the name of Christ.

Amen

Written by **Rev Dr Sally Douglas**
Minister Richmond Uniting Church
Honorary Research Associate and
Associate Lecturer
Pilgrim Theological College,
University of Divinity
Sally.douglas@pilgrim.edu.au

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