

6<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Hymn TIS 201. King of Glory, King of Peace

The minister greets the people and reads one or more of the following.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Sentence

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. John 11:25-26

**THANKSGIVING.**

**Gracious God, we humbly thank you  
for life and health and safety,  
for freedom to work, leisure to rest,  
and for all that is beautiful in creation and human life.  
But, above all, we praise you for our Saviour,  
Jesus Christ,  
for his death and resurrection;  
for the gift of your Spirit;  
and for the hope of sharing in your glory.  
Fill our hearts with all joy and peace in believing;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Prayer of the Day**

God of all the living, in the resurrection of Christ Jesus you have given us the promise of life which death itself cannot destroy: in the strength of this unshakeable promise, give us a new heart to live, even now, as your new creation.

We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

**Job 19:23-27**

23 Oh, that my words were recorded,  
that they were written on a scroll,  
24 that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead,  
or engraved in rock forever!  
25 I know that my redeemer lives,  
and that in the end he will stand on the earth.  
26 And after my skin has been destroyed,  
yet in my flesh I will see God;  
27 I myself will see him  
with my own eyes; I, and not another.  
How my heart yearns within me!

**Psalm 98**

1 Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

2 The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

3 He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

4 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music;

5 make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing,

6 with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn shout for joy before the Lord, the King.

7 Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

8 Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy;

9 let them sing before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

### **2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17**

1 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters,  
2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us, whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter, asserting that the day of the Lord has already come.

3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

5 Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things?

13 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits, to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

14 He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

15 So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

16 May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope,

17 encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word..

### **John 5:5-15**

5 After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches.  
3 In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water.  
4 For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.  
5 Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years.  
6 When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"  
7 The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me."  
8 Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."  
9 And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.  
10 The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed."  
11 He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.' "  
12 Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?"  
13 But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place.  
14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you."  
15 The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

## **Sermon**

### **Affirmation of Faith.**

**We believe in one God,  
who made and loves all that is.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was born, lived, died and rose again,  
and is coming to call all to account.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who calls, equips and sends out God's people,  
and brings all things to their true end.**

This is our faith, the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

**The following Confession may be introduced.**

**'Come now, let us reason together,' says the Lord. 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson they shall be like wool.'**

Isaiah 1.18

**Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.**

**Let us now confess our sins to almighty God.**

**Heavenly Father,  
you have loved us with an everlasting love,  
but we have broken your holy laws  
and have left undone what we ought to have done.  
We are sorry for our sins  
and turn away from them.  
For the sake of your Son who died for us,  
forgive us, cleanse us and change us.  
By your Holy Spirit,  
enable us to live for you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

God desires that none should perish,  
but that all should turn to Christ, and live.  
In response to his call we acknowledge our sins.  
God pardons those who humbly repent,  
and truly believe the gospel.  
Therefore we have peace with God, through Jesus Christ.

**Amen**

**Christ died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way,  
count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Romans 6.10–11**

**Hymn TIS 533 I come with joy to meet my Lord**

### **THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### **THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

Loving God, we thank you for hearing our prayers,  
feeding us with your word,  
and encouraging us in our meeting together.

**Take us and use us  
to love and serve you  
and all people,  
in the power of your Spirit  
and in the name of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**hymn TIS 675 Shine Jesus Shine**

**blessing.**

May the God of peace equip you with everything good for doing his will, working in you what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THERE WILL BE NO SERMON ISSUED OR DELIVERED 13th November 2022



Luke 19 1-10 (revised talk for Cooma/Adam 6.11.22)

Would it be fair for me to assume that we are all familiar with the story of Zacchaeus? This much resented, turncoat Jewish man who not only worked for the hated Romans as he collected taxes, but everyone knew he was skimming off profits for himself as was normal practice for tax collectors in those days.

Not a popular fellow!

And in the story which Luke illustrates for us here, we get the picture of a man small in stature who, overcome by curiosity, has to climb a tree to get a glimpse of Jesus as he passes through the village.

But except for what follows, this little cameo may well have been consigned to obscurity.

Jesus looks up & beckons him down from the tree – the rest is history.

This short story is the gospel in miniature:-

\* There is Zacchaeus **searching**. Curiosity yes, but also a deep need for something more than money (of which he apparently had plenty). If everybody hates you it's not a good feeling.

\***He hears the call** of Jesus – Zacchaeus come down out of that tree!

\***His response**. No hesitation, no embarrassment, his response is willing and enthusiastic. All thoughts of dignity and pride are dispensed with as he pushes his way through the crowd to respond to the invitation.

\*We then are told **that repentance**, generous recompense by Zacchaeus to all those he'd wronged, and total forgiveness by Jesus follow.

In verse 9 we read that Zacchaeus hears Jesus say – spoken clearly and simply;

**“Today salvation has come to this house, because the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost”.**

Who wouldn't weep with joy to hear those words.

What strikes me with this episode is :

1. Zacchaeus is curious & searching for something he knows he needs to find fulfillment in his life.  
Perhaps at times, you also may have asked the question ‘what’s it all about’ or ‘why am I here’.
2. Zac had everything he needed for a comfortable life -except true friends & inner peace. We are told that he was despised by his fellow Jews. Yet he knew he needed something more.
3. When he knew that Jesus was close by..... he just had to catch a glimpse of this notorious man for himself.
4. **But** he was blocked by the crowd. So what did he do? He dropped all of his inhibitions & actually climbed a tree! Who here today would be Zacchaeus?..lets look for a mid to later life fellow here & imagine him climbing a tree to get a better look at a passing parade.  
*Would any of us do such a thing?*



5. He didn't care. He knew what he wanted to do & nothing was going to stop him. So he went right ahead & climbed that tree & did not care what anybody else would think.

Now there is another element in this short tale.....& that is the CROWD.

You may ask "What has the crowd got to do with it ? How does that relate to us?"

Well our little man Zac was stopped, blocked, prevented from 'seeing Jesus' by the crowd !

It was the large crowd that stood between him & Jesus - that blocked his way. He could not walk through the crowd because he was a tax collector & a sinner & they would, more than likely, beat him up. He wanted to see Jesus, but was unable & was forced to climb a tree.

Could this be an illustration of some aspects of our church?

Far too often what keeps people out of the church is not the message of the Gospel but the disciples who are the ones who are supposed to be preaching & living out its message.

We can be "the crowd" standing between those seeking Jesus & the Lord himself.

It may be our way of living, our way of worshipping: the way we respond to the stranger, the sinner, the outcast: the requirements we insist on & our not so bright history as faith communities which keep people away.

And that is a sad comment & a call to all of us to reflect on how we live out our lives of faith & on what we can all do not to be an impediment to the faith journey of another Zacchaeus wanting to 'see Jesus'.

*So what is the application of this lesson today?*

\*Are we Zacchaeus - fighting against the odds to get to know Jesus? & willing to lose our reputation, dignity & wealth in the search for true joy & peace.

\*Are we the 'crowd' - (hopefully unintentionally) blocking others from disturbing our safe & secure space by not being welcoming. (Look around here today - where are the people?)

\*Are we "Jesus" ...always aware & alert to those in need & willing to go into those not so nice places, those uncomfortable spaces in search of the lost.

These are the questions for each of us to ponder & to answer.

We thank you Jesus for coming to seek us out and to save us who once were lost.

May we all be moved to go and share this precious gift with others.

Amen