

## **Cooma Anglican 14 September 2025 2nd Order 1st Thanksgiving APBA**

### **Welcome**

#### **Hymn TIS 168 - For the fruit of all creation, Thanks be to God**

**For the fruit of all creation, Thanks be to God  
For His gifts to every nation, Thanks be to God  
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping  
Silent growth while we are sleeping  
Future needs in earth's safekeeping, Thanks be to God**

**In the just reward of labour, God's will is done  
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done  
In our worldwide task of caring  
For the hungry and despairing  
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done**

**For the harvests of the Spirit, Thanks be to God  
For the good we all inherit, Thanks be to God  
For the wonders that astound us  
For the truths that still confound us  
Most of all that love has found us, Thanks be to God**

### **Greeting**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

### **Sentence of the Day**

Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, "He is a good man." Others replied, "No, he deceives the people." John 7:12

### **Prayer of Preparation**

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

**Lord, have mercy on us, and write your law in our hearts by your Holy Spirit**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Undaunted, you seek the lost, O God. exultant you bring home the found; touch our hearts with grateful wonder at the tenderness of your forbearing love; grant us delight in the mercy that has found us; and bring us all to rejoice at the feast of

forgiven sinners. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

## **The Ministry of the Word**

### **Exodus 4:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> Moses answered, “What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘The LORD did not appear to you’?”

<sup>2</sup> Then the LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?”

“A staff,” he replied.

<sup>3</sup> The LORD said, “Throw it on the ground.”

Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to him, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.” So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. <sup>5</sup> “This,” said the LORD, “is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you.” This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm 78:21-33**

<sup>21</sup> When the LORD heard them, he was furious; his fire broke out against Jacob, and his wrath rose against Israel,

<sup>22</sup> **for they did not believe in God or trust in his deliverance.**

<sup>23</sup> Yet he gave a command to the skies above and opened the doors of the heavens;

<sup>24</sup> **he rained down manna for the people to eat, he gave them the grain of heaven.**

<sup>25</sup> Human beings ate the bread of angels; he sent them all the food they could eat.

<sup>26</sup> **He let loose the east wind from the heavens and by his power made the south wind blow.**

<sup>27</sup> He rained meat down on them like dust, birds like sand on the seashore.

<sup>28</sup> **He made them come down inside their camp, all around their tents.**

<sup>29</sup> They ate till they were gorged—he had given them what they craved.

<sup>30</sup> **But before they turned from what they craved, even while the food was still in their mouths,**

<sup>31</sup> God’s anger rose against them; he put to death the sturdiest among them, cutting down the young men of Israel.

<sup>32</sup> **In spite of all this, they kept on sinning; in spite of his wonders, they did not believe.**

<sup>33</sup> **So he ended their days in futility and their years in terror.**

### **Acts 16:25-34**

<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. <sup>27</sup> The jailer woke up, and when

he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”

<sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

<sup>31</sup> They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved —you and your household.” <sup>32</sup> Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. <sup>33</sup> At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. <sup>34</sup> The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

### **John 7:1-13**

#### **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

<sup>1</sup> After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him. <sup>2</sup> But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, <sup>3</sup> Jesus’ brothers said to him, “Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do. <sup>4</sup> No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world.” <sup>5</sup> For even his own brothers did not believe in him.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore Jesus told them, “My time is not yet here; for you any time will do. <sup>7</sup> The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil. <sup>8</sup> You go to the festival. I am not going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come.” <sup>9</sup> After he had said this, he stayed in Galilee.

<sup>10</sup> However, after his brothers had left for the festival, he went also, not publicly, but in secret. <sup>11</sup> Now at the festival the Jewish leaders were watching for Jesus and asking, “Where is he?”

<sup>12</sup> Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, “He is a good man.” Others replied, “No, he deceives the people.” <sup>13</sup> But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the leaders.

This is the gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

### **Sermon - John 7:1-13 - Believing in Jesus**

#### **The Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose from the dead, he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Thanksgiving for Offering**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. **Blessed be God forever.**

### **Prayers**

Let us pray for the world and the church.

Response: Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,  
**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.**

### **Exhortation**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we who would come to the holy communion of the body and blood of our Saviour Christ must consider how St Paul exhorts us to examine ourselves before presuming to eat of that bread and drink of that cup. For the benefit is great, if with a penitent heart and lively faith we receive that holy sacrament. We then spiritually eat the flesh of Christ and drink his blood; we dwell in Christ and he in us; we are one with Christ and Christ with us. Yet also the danger is great if we receive the bread and cup unworthily. Judge yourselves therefore, that you be not judged of the Lord. Repent truly of your sins, having a steadfast faith in Christ our Saviour. Amend your lives and love your neighbour.

Above all, give hearty thanks to God for the redemption of the world by the death and passion of our Saviour Christ, truly God and truly human, who humbled himself to death on the cross for us sinners, that he might make us children of God, and raise us to eternal life.

You who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God and walking in his holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to strengthen and comfort you. But first, let us make a humble confession of our sins to almighty God.

### **Confession**

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we acknowledge with shame the sins we have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against your divine majesty, provoking most justly your wrath and indignation against us.**

**We earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for all our misdoings. Have mercy on us, most merciful Father. For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please you in newness of life, to the honour and glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all who with hearty repentance and true faith turn to him: have mercy on you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear the words of assurance for those who truly turn to Christ: If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and he is the perfect offering for our sins. 1 John 2:1-2

### **Hymn TIS 599(ii) Take my life, and let it be**

**Take my life, and let it be, consecrated, Lord, to thee.**

**Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands, and let them move, at the impulse of thy love.**

**Take my feet, and let them be, swift and beautiful for thee.**

**Take my voice, and let me sing, always, only, for my King.**

**Take my lips, and let them be, filled with messages from thee.**

**Take my silver and my gold, nothing, Lord, would I withhold.**

**Take my intellect, and use, every power as thou shalt choose.**

**Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.**

**Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.**

**Take my love: my Lord, I pour, at thy feet its treasure-store.**

**Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

### **The Thanksgiving**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Lord, Mighty Creator and Eternal God. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Glory to you, O Lord most high.**

### **Prayer of Approach**

**We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

All glory to you, our heavenly Father, for in your tender mercy you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death on the cross for our redemption: who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until his coming again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that we who receive these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who on the night he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.' Likewise after supper he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, 'Drink from this, all of you; for this is my blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' Amen.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts with thanksgiving.

### **After Communion**

Almighty and everliving God, we heartily thank you that you graciously feed us, who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and thus assure us of your favour and goodness towards us and that we are true members of the mystical body of your Son, the blessed company of all faithful people, and are also heirs, through hope, of your eternal kingdom, by the merits of the most precious death and passion of your dear Son. And we humbly beseech you, heavenly Father, so to assist us with your grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as you have prepared for us to walk in, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, world without end.

### **Hymn TIS 569 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer**

**Guide me, O thou great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand:  
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore, feed me now and evermore.**

**Open now the crystal fountain whence the living waters flow:  
let the fiery, cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through:  
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield, be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee, I will ever give to thee.**

### **Notices**

#### **Dismissal**

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**



## Sermon - John 7:1-13 - Believing In Jesus

Over the last few weeks I have been emphasising that Jesus is a miracle worker, but is also so much more.

Today's passage from John's gospel reminds us that, in a similar way, we need to not only believe that he performed miracles, we need to believe in him.

In today's gospel, Jesus did not want to go to the festival of Tabernacles in Jerusalem, because the Jewish leaders wanted to kill him. By way of background, during the Exodus, God told the Israelites in Leviticus 23:33 (NIV) that every year they were to celebrate the festival of tabernacles, and it is celebrated to this day. Devout Jews eat all their meals in tents or similar structures where they can see the sky, to remind themselves that for 40 years they lived in tents, or tabernacles, in the wilderness as they made their way to the promised land. In Jesus's day, many would go to Jerusalem to celebrate this festival.

This seems to me to be that Jesus had a reasonable excuse for not wanting to go, the people wanting to kill him and all, but the disciples thought it was more important that more people see his miracles. You can just imagine the conversation: "Hey Jesus, we reckon lots more people need to see your miracles - you need to do them in Jerusalem during the festival of tabernacles - everyone will be there". "Yeah, but they are planning to kill me." "We know, but absolutely no one who wants to be a public figure acts in secret." "Yeah, but they are planning to kill me, and I wasn't planning on being a dead public figure just yet." "But you need to show yourself to the world." "But it is not yet my time, you go up to the festival." "You really need to come with us." "the world hates me because I testify that its works are evil - it wants to kill me, I'm not going!"

You can imagine how the conversation would have gone, but did you notice a couple of key statements that John records? Firstly, they obviously believed he did miracles, because they told Jesus that the disciples in Jerusalem needed to see his works, his miracles. And



secondly, even his own brothers did not believe in him. They believed he did miracles, but they didn't believe IN him.

What does it mean to believe IN Jesus? Obviously it means more than believing in his ability to perform miracles.

Today, if we say we believe in something, like fairies at the bottom of the garden, it means simply that we believe they exist. Obviously since the disciples were talking to Jesus, they obviously believed he existed, and so Jesus is obviously meaning more than this. It's a bit like James says in his letter: <sup>19</sup> You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that —and shudder. James 2:18-19

Today if we say we believe in someone, it means we believe they have the internal fortitude to see their current situation through. The disciple appears to have this confidence in Jesus, but I think they mean more than this.

Paul used the expression "believe in Jesus and you will be saved" to the gaoler in our New Testament reading in Acts. Here Paul means that the gaoler should believe what is being said about Jesus, and specifically that he has the power to save, and that he will save all who trust him to forgive the sin that prevents us from having eternal life. I believe that Paul and John are using the expression believe in Jesus in the same way - believe that Jesus had the power to save and will save those who trust in him. This is what we should do, believe in Jesus, that he is who he says he is.

Anyway, getting back to the narrative, Jesus obviously convinced his disciples that he wasn't going to Jerusalem for the festival of tabernacles, and they left for the festival without him. But did you notice what Jesus did next? He goes to the festival secretly, without performing miracles or otherwise drawing attention to himself. John reiterates Jesus's excuse that it wasn't his time yet. Jesus knew full well that the Romans wanted to kill him, and that his going to Jerusalem for the festival or not would make no difference whatever. It might seem surprising that Jesus appears to lie, as he actually did go to Jerusalem for the tabernacles festival, but he did go in secret,

without the disciples, and didn't perform any miracles that the disciples wanted, so as far as they were concerned he might as well not have gone.

Once he did get to the festival, circumstances showed that he was right. The Jewish leaders were specifically watching for him, and asking for him, because they did want to kill him. However, what is really interesting is the things the people at the festival believed about Jesus.

The Jewish leaders obviously believed he did not deserve to live. It's pretty rough to think this about anyone, but they obviously thought he was a religious leader who would take their power away. They justified this by calling him a heretic, a false prophet, someone who would really lead people away from God, most likely to a false God.

This view made its way into the crowd, where others whispered "He deceives people. They thought he was a liar, telling untruths for some obscure benefit to himself. This is not a very common view of Jesus today, but many of the new atheists held this view, as they hold of all religion that it is basically deception on a wide scale, and that humankind would be much better off without it, even though the evidence has very much the opposite view - religion is good for you and society at least in the development of the basis for a Judeo-Christian rules based society, as we have in Australia.

The crowds call Jesus a liar in response to another widespread whispering, "He is a good man." All the evidence that he have today from the Biblical and extra-biblical accounts support this view. There is simply no evidence that Jesus did anything wrong or broke any laws - Jewish or Roman. As we will find out as we read about Jesus's trial and crucifixion, the authorities had to really turn themselves inside out to get a prosecution, and even then the witnesses couldn't agree with each other, and twisted evidence that he threatened to destroy the temple - even when it was clear he was talking about his body.

So in this passage, we find people believing different things about Jesus - that he was an insurrectionist - actively working for the

destruction of the Roman and Jewish governments, or that he was simply a liar, deceiving people in order to somehow benefit himself, or that he was a good man - misunderstood, but basically good.

While believing that Jesus is a good man is probably closest to the mark, as we have been saying for the last few weeks, it is saying far too little about Jesus. Jesus is so much more than a good man. The Bible constantly tells us that Jesus is so much more than just a good man. When we believe in him, we believe that he is the Son of God, and God the Son. We believe that he is the saviour who testifies that the world's works are evil, but also provides forgiveness for that evil by dying in our place, dying the death that our sin deserves that we might have total forgiveness, and the eternal life that only people who have truly been forgiven through Christ's death and resurrection can have.

Is this the way you believe in Jesus, believing he is so much more than a good man and a miracle worker, and that he truly is the saviour of the world, and in fact, your personal saviour?

Amen