

Cooma Anglican 5 October 2025 1st Order APBA

Welcome

Hymn TIS 135 - All things bright and beautiful

Chorus

**All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.**

**The wildflowers in their beauty, the mountain ranges tall,
the billabongs and rivers, and friendly birds that call,*Chorus***

**The cold wind in the winter, the bright, life-giving sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden—he made them everyone.*Chorus***

**The coloured walls of gorges, the gum trees green and tall,
the rocks, and pools, and palm trees, the sparkling waterfall,*Chorus***

**The many-coloured corals, the creatures of the sea,
of bushland, field or desert, on farms, or roaming free,*Chorus***

**He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty who has made all things well.*Chorus***

Greeting

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Sentence of the Day

Jesus said "The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him." Even as he spoke, many believed in him. John 8:29-30

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

Almighty God, every good thing comes from you. Fill our hearts with love for you, increase our faith, and by your constant care preserve in us the good you have given

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

The Ministry of the Word

Ezekiel 3:16-23 (NIV)

¹⁶ At the end of seven days the word of the LORD came to me: ¹⁷ “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. ¹⁸ When I say to a wicked person, ‘You will surely die,’ and you do not warn them or speak out to dissuade them from their evil ways in order to save their life, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. ¹⁹ But if you do warn the wicked person and they do not turn from their wickedness or from their evil ways, they will die for their sin; but you will have saved yourself. ²⁰ “Again, when a righteous person turns from their righteousness and does evil, and I put a stumbling block before them, they will die. Since you did not warn them, they will die for their sin. The righteous things that person did will not be remembered, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. ²¹ But if you do warn the righteous person not to sin and they do not sin, they will surely live because they took warning, and you will have saved yourself.”

²² The hand of the LORD was on me there, and he said to me, “Get up and go out to the plain, and there I will speak to you.” ²³ So I got up and went out to the plain. And the glory of the LORD was standing there, like the glory I had seen by the Kebar River, and I fell facedown.

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

Psalms 24 (NIV)

¹ The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;

² **for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.**

³ Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place?

⁴ **The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.**

⁵ They will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God their Savior.

⁶ **Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob.**

⁷ Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

⁸ **Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.**

⁹ Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

¹⁰ **Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty —he is the King of glory.**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NIV)

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

John 8:21-30

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

²¹ Once more Jesus said to them, "I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come."

²² This made the Jews ask, "Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, 'Where I go, you cannot come'?"

²³ But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. ²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins."

²⁵ "Who are you?" they asked.

"Just what I have been telling you from the beginning," Jesus replied. ²⁶ "I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world."

²⁷ They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. ²⁸ So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. ²⁹ The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him." ³⁰

Even as he spoke, many believed in him.

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

Sermon - John 8:21-30 Many Believed Him

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 136 There's a wideness in God's mercy

**There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea,
and forgiveness in his justice
sealed for us on Calvary.**

**There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.**

**For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.**

**But we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own,
and we magnify his strictness
with a zeal he will not own.**

**If our love were but more simple
we should take him at his word;**

**and our lives would be illumined
by the goodness of our Lord.**

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 8:21-30 - Many Believed Him

What defines who you are? Are you define by who your parents are? Your wider family, your job, your citizenship?

Many of us came to Paul Allenspach's funeral in Friday. If you were like me, you found out something of Paul's background that taught you something about Paul that you didn't know. Interestingly, while Paul's Swiss heritage was an important part of who he was, he was so committed to his new country, to Australia, that after he arrived he only spoke in English, and not his native tongue. And as we heard yesterday, in his younger life Paul had many adventures that played a big part in making him who he was, that could have defined him.

But as we continue our way through John's gospel, we continue to be asked who Jesus is, what defines Jesus for us? As I have said previously, when we read our Bibles it is not so much investigating who the Bible says Jesus is, but God asking us who we say Jesus is - what defines him for us and how do we respond to him?

Putting today's passage into context, Jesus is most likely talking to the Pharisees, because back in John 8:13¹³ *The Pharisees challenged him*, and our reading today is a continuation of Jesus's response. Importantly, the Pharisees were notable for two reasons: they were considered to be the ultra-righteous. They scoured their Bibles for what we might consider the most minor of commandments, and refined them so finely so you knew exactly how many metres you could walk on the Sabbath and still keep it. They did the same for every other commandment they could find, and expected everyone to keep the commandments to that ultra level or risk God's judgement. Secondly, the Pharisees, even as Jesus spoke to them, were conspiring to have Jesus arrested and executed. Jesus knew these things, and consequently, Jesus's words to them were harsh.

Where is Jesus going?

Our passage starts with Jesus saying that he is *going away*. He obviously means much more than just that he has had enough of the argument and is leaving the temple. He says ^{21b} *you will look for me*, ^{21c} *and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come.*" Jesus is talking about his death, his resurrection, and his ascension. He knows that he will be executed. He

knows that he will die for the sins of the world. He knew this because that is why he came.

It is actually quite ironic that the Pharisees respond by asking: "*Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, 'Where I go, you cannot come'?*" They were questioning whether Jesus was planning on suicide. The language they used suggests that they didn't expect him to kill himself, but it was more a suggestion of how hopeless they considered Jesus, that he would do what they considered a terrible sin. Please understand that this passage is not talking about suicide, and that suicide is a very sensitive matter for many of us. Please talk to me afterwards if my mentioning it causes you any distress - whether because of your own experiences or those of people near you. All I will say about it now is that suicide of itself does not prevent salvation. I am sure that people who trust in Jesus for salvation have suicided, and have still gone to eternal life.

But the scary thing from our passage today is that even as they spoke, the Pharisees were conspiring to sin in a way in which even they considered vastly more serious. They, who scoffingly accused Jesus of considering suicide, were planning murder, the taking of innocent life, and Jesus's life, to be specific.

Where are you from?

So that's why I believe this is at least part of why Jesus *continued*, "*You are from below; You are of this world.*" The Greek word that Jesus used for 'the world', *Cosmos*, particularly emphasises that this cosmos is a fallen world, a world corrupted by sin. How else could Pharisees, people claiming to definitively know God's righteousness not only conspire to murder, but to murder God the Son - God's perfect representative on earth? By saying they are from below, Jesus is alluding to the Old Testament, where the world below is the dominion of Satan, the deceiver. This is where he considers the Pharisees should go, not just for seeking to murder him, but for not believing that he is the Son of God.

Where is Jesus from?

Then, in contrast to where he says the Pharisees will go, Jesus tells them: ^{23b} *I am from above.* ^{23d} *I am not of this world.* Not only is he saying he is not from the realm of Satan, the world below, he is saying that he isn't even from this world. Jesus is from above, the heavenly realms where

God dwells, and is saying that he isn't just a good man, or good teacher, but he's so much more.

Who is Jesus?

This leads the Pharisees to ask the right question: ²⁵ *"Who are you?" they ask.*

Jesus, with just a touch of frustration replies: ^{25b} *"Just what I have been telling you from the beginning,"* But then, more menacingly, Jesus tells them ²⁶ *"I have much to say in judgment of you."*

The Pharisees probably thought this was a bit rich, given how holy and righteous they thought they were. They probably thought, "Bring it on! Let's see who really is righteous" But of course this doesn't phase Jesus - he's not into piety competitions or arguments over who is the most righteous. He knows *"that he who sent him is trustworthy,"* and that he is only telling the world what he has heard from God. He has nothing to fear from the Pharisee's judgement.

How will you respond?

At this point, the arguments are over, but the Pharisees haven't got it.

²⁷ *They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father.*

Those who claimed to authoritatively speak God's very requirements could not understand God's very words from God the Son.

The Pharisees' own words condemn them. Jesus tells them ²⁴ *I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.*" Compounding this judgment, ²⁸ *Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me."* ²⁹ *The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.*

Usually when the Bible talks about lifting someone up, it means exalting them - holding them up to show their glory - but Jesus is talking about a different kind of lifting up - a lifting up on an executioner's cross. As he had told Nicodemus in John 3: ¹⁴ *Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.*

Our passage today concludes by saying ³⁰ *Even as he spoke, many believed in him. Many believed that Jesus was the Son of Man, Son of God, from*

God the Father. They believed he who *does nothing on his own but only speaks just what the Father has taught him*. They believed that ²⁹ God the Father, the one who sent Jesus was with him; had not left Jesus alone, for *Jesus always does what pleases him*.

As far as we know, most Pharisees, with the exception at least of Nicodemus, were blind to this truth about who Jesus is. These Pharisees, along with everyone else who does not believe in Jesus, on God the Father's authority, will indeed die in their sins. But as Jesus went on in John 3 to tell Nicodemus, ¹⁶God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life John 3:16 Those who respond to Jesus by believing in him do not die in their sins, but instead are saved through Jesus Christ to eternal life.

On Friday we celebrated the life of Paul Allenspach, who was from Switzerland, had many adventures in his younger life, and is warmly remembered by his wife Edna, his children and grandchildren, but none of these things has determined where Paul has gone. As far as I know, at least in his later life, Paul believed in Jesus, that Jesus who was crucified on the cross for Paul's sin, and now has not perished, but has eternal life. No matter where Paul came from, he believed that Jesus came from the Father, and Jesus went to the Father after dying for the world's sin, including Paul's own sin. Paul's response to Jesus's words, his belief in Jesus has determined where Paul has gone in death, to eternal life, just as our response determines where we go in death or when Jesus returns, just as it did for Nicodemus.

Where will your response to Jesus's words, to God's words, lead you going? Will you go to eternal life, or will you die in your sins? I pray that you trust in Jesus's words, and have eternal life.

Amen