

Cooma Anglican 2 November 2025 1st Order APBA

Welcome

Hymn TIS 650 - Brother, sister, let me serve you

**Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.**

**Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

Greeting

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Sentence of the Day

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophecy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach. Romans 12:6-7

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

God our Father, whose will it is to bring all things to order and unity in our Lord Jesus Christ; may all the people of the world, now divided and torn apart by sin, be brought together through the faithful teaching of your gospel; 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

Deuteronomy 4:5-14 (NIV)

⁵ See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it. ⁶ Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.” ⁷ What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? ⁸ And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

⁹ Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. ¹⁰ Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when he said to me, “Assemble the people before me to hear my words so that they may learn to revere me as long as they live in the land and may teach them to their children.” ¹¹ You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain while it blazed with fire to the very heavens, with black clouds and deep darkness. ¹² Then the LORD spoke to you out of the fire. You heard the sound of words but saw no form; there was only a voice. ¹³ He declared to you his covenant, the Ten Commandments, which he commanded you to follow and then wrote them on two stone tablets. ¹⁴ And the LORD directed me at that time to teach you the decrees and laws you are to follow in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess.

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

Psalms 78:1-8 (NIV)

¹ My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.

² **I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old—**

³ things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us.

⁴ **We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.**

⁵ He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children,

⁶ **so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.**

⁷ Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

⁸ They would not be like their ancestors — a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him.

Titus 2:1-10

¹ You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. ² Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.

³ Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. ⁴ Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

⁶ Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. ⁷ In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness ⁸ and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

⁹ Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, ¹⁰ and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.

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

Matthew 28:16-20

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

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

Sermon - Gifts of Grace - Teaching

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 247 Let all be one in mind and heart

**Let all be one in mind and heart
with Jesus Christ our Lord,
who, though He was by nature God,
God's glory laid aside.**

**He laid His heavenly glory down;
God's servant He became;
obediently He lived to die
in shame upon the cross.**

**Now God has raised Him up, to bear
the name above all names;
at Jesus' name all knees shall bow,
all tongues proclaim Him Lord.**

**All glory now the Father shares
with His exalted Son,
whom God the Holy Spirit raised
from death to heaven's throne.**

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 215 You servants of God, your Master proclaim

**You servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name all-victorious of Jesus extol;
his kingdom is glorious, and rules over all.**

**Our God rules on high, almighty to save;
and still he is nigh, his presence we have;
the great congregation his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus our king.**

**Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!
let all cry aloud, and honour the Son:
the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.**

**Then let us adore, and give him his right,
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,
all honour and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never-ceasing, and infinite love.**

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 - Gifts of Grace - Teaching

This week we are continuing with our sermon series of gifts of Grace. If you were here last week, you would remember that Paul wrote in Romans 12 "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." We are called to use these gifts of grace to build up Christ's body, that is the church, which like our physical body has many different parts, each with different jobs to do.

Last week I spoke about the gift of prophecy, which I said was telling people God's message. Christian prophesying sometimes includes foretelling the future, since God is the only one who truly knows the future, but as I said last week, the key aspect is that you are telling people God's message. This week I want to talk about a different gift of Grace that Paul mentioned, and that is teaching.

The idea of teaching is pretty straight forward - someone teaches and one or more others learn. It is a lot like prophecy, but the emphasis is on people learning and putting what is learnt into practice in their lives. We have all had numerous teachers throughout our lives: school teachers at different levels - primary, secondary and even tertiary: TAFE and University. We've had Sunday school teachers, our parents hopefully taught us many things that set us up for life, wise adults such as grandparents, uncles, aunts taught us useful skills like riding a bike and to drive. We have all had many teachers.

In the context of the first century church, teaching was particularly important because the church comprised a mix of people coming from different knowledge bases. You had Jewish Christians who knew a lot about the God of the Old Testament, of the Old Testament laws and commandments, and the Jewish model of worshipping God in the temple with sacrifices and through hearing his word read and taught in the synagogues. But you would also have had gentile Christians, Christians who had come from non-Jewish backgrounds. They may also have had knowledge of pagan gods and worship. But both these groups had much to

learn of Christian doctrine, who Jesus was, his relationship to God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, how Jesus died and rose again so our sins may be forgiven, and how we live in response to that forgiveness: our worship, living and loving rightly, and so on.

The church today has a similar challenge. We often have people amongst us who have been Christians for decades and some who have just become Christian's, or perhaps are not committed to Christ yet and are only exploring. There will be some who don't know anything about Christianity and have come along to learn - from the ground up if you will. Some think they know a lot about the faith, but may have learnt from unreliable sources, and others have years of reliable teaching directly from the Bible and wiser older Christians. Some even have degrees, diplomas, and even PhDs in theology with various amounts of experience applying it in their lives, in living as Christians.

Each of these groups have different things to learn about our faith, but they will all have things to learn. Jesus said he taught us what his Father had taught him. He taught us to pray, to not to stir up trouble. He taught who he was, that he had to suffer and die for the sins of the world. We, in turn, are to teach all the things that Jesus taught, in his name. We are to teach the word of the Lord, true doctrine and not human teachings. Most importantly we are to teach the gospel.

I preached 4 sermons last year on the gospel. In those sermons I said that the gospel was that God made the universe, including humankind, perfect, but then humankind rebelled against God, sinning and being expelled from the garden of Eden. God gave us the model and plan of true salvation through his special people, the nation of Israel in the Old Testament, and ultimately sent perfect salvation and restoration of this fallen world we live in through sending his son, Jesus into this world as a man to die in our place and take upon himself the penalty for sin that we deserve, allowing all who have faith in him to have eternal life in a world perfectly restored to the way it was in the beginning with perfectly restored relationships between God, his creation and humankind .

Everyone benefits from hearing this gospel again and again. We are built up in our faith as we are taught what God has done for us through his son for this world and the next. It strengthens our faith, it helps us to

explain what we believe to others and to respond to those who question our faith. Christians also need to be taught with solid food (when compared to basic milk), to hear solid doctrine that we may have our powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

The Bible tells us that God has given His Church people with gifts to teach all of us. Here in Cooma we have formally ordained priests and deacons, Sunday school teachers, bible study leaders, and, I would suggest most importantly, parents and grandparents sharing their faith with the next generations. We even have what I'll call enthusiastic amateurs who are just keen to share what God had taught them through his Word with their families, colleagues, friends and even strangers. All of these have some gifts of teaching, and God is using them to build up the church here.

It isn't just the content of the teaching and the different teachers that have to accommodate the different groups that need teaching in our church. Each group, and in fact each individual have different preferred learning styles. Education theorists tell us some are visual learners, some are auditory, others experiential. Some learn best through simple facts, others through hearing stories, others through working out for themselves from basic principles or facts.

Also, when you look at the different examples of teaching in the New Testament you see how the location of teaching varies. Jesus taught in synagogues and in the temple and this was the more formal teaching. But he also taught from the sea shore, from a boat, in villages, on mountain tops and on the plains. Similarly we should teach in different locations, formally in church and in Bible study groups, but also more informally over morning tea after church or when we catch up for a cuppa, teaching our families in the conversations we have over meals at any time of the day, or just as we catch up with friends, perhaps just taking the time to discuss Sunday's sermon, what you have been learning in Bible study or what God has been teaching you through your personal Bible reading and study. Sometimes it's good for friends to just get together to see what the Bible says about a particular topic - perhaps something that one or more of the people are struggling with or is just an aspect of their Christian lives.

The final aspect I saw as I looked at all the examples of teaching in the New Testament were the outcomes of teaching. As people are taught by Jesus or disciples: they gain hope, they show integrity, dignity and sound speech that cannot be condemned, they avoid being blown around by every new doctrine, they become good servants of Christ, they are saved and present mature in Christ.

Most importantly, when the gospel of Jesus Christ is taught, God is glorified by all.

Ultimately, God has given the church people with gifts of teaching that they may teach, and as a result people put their faith in Jesus and are saved to eternal life, which is the greatest way that God, the eternal three in one, Father, Son and Holy Spirit is glorified.

As there are different groups of people that need to be taught in the church, different aspects of the gospel and Christian living that need to be taught, different teaching styles and places where people can be taught, and different qualifications of teachers, both formal and formal, there are many different gifts of teaching that should be exercised in our church. Please don't think that because you don't feel gifted to be an ordained preacher of the gospel from the pulpit that you aren't gifted to preach. There is no monolithic gift of teaching, but many ways the Holy Spirit gifts us to teach. My prayer is that you will all find the ways that the Holy Spirit has gifted you to teach, and will use that gift to help bring people to faith in Jesus so that God is glorified.

Amen