

Sunday 16 November 2025 Cooma Anglican HC 3

Hymn: TIS 642 This day God gives me

**This day God gives me, Strength of high heaven,
Sun and moon shining, Flame in my hearth,
Flashing of lightning, Wind in its swiftness,
Deeps of the ocean, Firmness of earth.**

**This day God sends me Strength to sustain me,
Might to uphold me, Wisdom as guide.
Your eyes are watchful, Your ears are list'ning,
Your lips are speaking, Friend at my side.**

**God's way is my way, God's shield is round me,
God's host defends me, Saving from ill.
Angels of heaven, Drive from me always
All that would harm me, Stand by me still.**

**Rising, I thank you, Mighty and strong One,
King of creation, Giver of rest,
Firmly confessing Threeness of Persons,
Oneness of Godhead, Trinity blest.**

Sentence of Scripture

⁵ May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶ so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5-6

The Great Commandments

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: 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.' 'This is the great and first commandment.

And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

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.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, whose sovereign purpose none can make void; give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, knowing that your kingdom shall come and

your will be done, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

2 Samuel 19:1-7 (NIV)

¹ Joab was told, “The king is weeping and mourning for Absalom.” ² And for the whole army the victory that day was turned into mourning, because on that day the troops heard it said, “The king is grieving for his son.” ³ The men stole into the city that day as men steal in who are ashamed when they flee from battle. ⁴ The king covered his face and cried aloud, “O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!”

⁵ Then Joab went into the house to the king and said, “Today you have humiliated all your men, who have just saved your life and the lives of your sons and daughters and the lives of your wives and concubines. ⁶ You love those who hate you and hate those who love you. You have made it clear today that the commanders and their men mean nothing to you. I see that you would be pleased if Absalom were alive today and all of us were dead. ⁷ Now go out and encourage your men. I swear by the LORD that if you don’t go out, not a man will be left with you by nightfall. This will be worse for you than all the calamities that have come on you from your youth till now.” This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Psalms 10:12-18

¹² Arise, LORD! Lift up your hand, O God. Do not forget the helpless.

¹³ **Why does the wicked man revile God? Why does he say to himself, “He won’t call me to account”?**

¹⁴ But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider their grief and take it in hand. The victims commit themselves to you; you are the helper of the fatherless.

¹⁵ **Break the arm of the wicked man; call the evildoer to account for his wickedness that would not otherwise be found out.**

¹⁶ The LORD is King for ever and ever; the nations will perish from his land.

¹⁷ **You, LORD, hear the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry,**

¹⁸ **defending the fatherless and the oppressed, so that mere earthly mortals will never again strike terror.**

Romans 15:1-6 (NIV)

¹ We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ² Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. ³ For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” ⁴ For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

⁵ May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶ so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Luke 12:6-12 (NIV)

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

⁶ Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God.

⁷ Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

⁸ "I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God. ⁹ But whoever disowns me before others will be disowned before the angels of God. ¹⁰ And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

¹¹ "When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, ¹² for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."

This is the gospel of the Lord. **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Sermon - Gifts of Grace - Encouragement

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.

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

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the world and the church

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

Scripture Sentence

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. 1 Cor 11:26-28

The Confession

Knowing the goodness of God and our failure to respond with love and obedience, let us confess our sins, saying together:

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 is slow to anger and full of compassion, forgiving all who humbly repent and trust in his Son as Saviour and Lord. God therefore forgives you in Christ Jesus, in whom there is no condemnation. **Amen**

Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Hymn - TIS 256 The Servant King

From heav'n You came, helpless babe
Enter'd our world Your glory veil'd
Not to be served but to serve
And give Your life that we might live

Chorus

This is our God the Servant King
He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King

There in the garden of tears
My heavy load He chose to bear
His heart with sorrow was torn
Yet not my will but Yours He said *Chorus*

Come see His hands and His feet
The scars that speak of sacrifice
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails, Surrendered *Chorus*

So let us learn how to serve
And in our lives enthrone Him
Each other's needs to prefer
For it is Christ we're serving *Chorus*

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 for ever.

The Great Thanksgiving

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

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.**

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, making us in your own image. We praise you for your son, our saviour Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and rising to new life offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore, we lift our voices to praise you, saying,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

And now, gracious God, we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine, and pray that we who receive them in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit according to our Saviour's word, in remembrance of his suffering and death, may share his body and his blood. On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying 'Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you.

We who are many are one body in Christ, **for we all share in the one bread.**

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying 'Drink from this all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' We eat this bread and drink this cup **to proclaim the death of the Lord.** We do this until he returns. **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Father, as we recall his saving death and glorious resurrection, may we who share these gifts be renewed by the Holy Spirit, and united in the body of your Son. Bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom, there to feast at your table and join in your eternal praise.

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive praise and honour and glory and power forever and ever. Amen

The Holy Communion

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

Gracious God, thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of our saviour Jesus Christ. Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love, and that we are living members of Christ's body.

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

Notices

Hymn - TIS 570 - Soldiers of Christ arise

**Soldiers of Christ arise And put your armour on
Strong in the strength which God supplies Through His eternal Son
Strong in the Lord of hosts And in His mighty power
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts Is more than conqueror.**

**Stand then in His great might With all His strength endued
And take to arm you for the fight The panoply of God;
That having all things done And all your conflicts past
Ye may o'ercome through Christ alone And stand entire at last.**

**Stand then against your foes, in close and firm array;
legions of wily fiends oppose throughout the evil day:
but meet the sons of night, and mock their vain design
armed in the arms of heavenly light, of righteousness divine.**

**Leave no unguarded place, No weakness of the soul;
Take every virtue, every grace, And fortify the whole:
in him forever joined, to battle all proceed;
but arm yourselves with all the mind that was in Christ, your Head.**

Blessing

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**

Dismissal

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

Sermon Gifts of Grace - Encouragement

This week we are continuing to look at the gifts of grace from Romans 12. Remember that Paul wrote in Romans 12:5 (NIV): that since *everyone in the church belongs to all the others*. 6 *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.* If your gift is to encourage, then you are to give encouragement.

Why encourage?

The Greek word for encouragement comes from the Greek words that mean 'call near'. To encourage someone is literally to call them near, exhorting to come near to Christ and to come near to you as you walk with Christ, helping them to walk with you. As with 'serving' which we talked about last week, the Greek word has a range of meanings. Throughout the New Testament it is translated in many ways. Some reflect what is done, like Comfort, invite, apologise, invite, ask and give instruction, but others focus more on how encouraging is done: Appealing, Begging, Imploring, Pleading, Intreating, Exhorting, and Urging. What particularly struck me about the words is their intensity: they aren't just speaking of just chatting or having a casual conversation, they are more serious than that. They suggest a high level of intensity, they tell us to appeal, to beg, to appeal, to implore and so on. They are strong, intense words because encouragement is serious. We are called to put effort into it, our hearts and souls. That is why God gives people special gifts to do it, it is that important.

Who encourages and who would we encourage?

That brings me to the next point: Who is to encourage? and Who do they encourage? As I've mentioned, some Christians have particular gifts of encouragement as Romans 12 tells us, but the bible also encourages all Christians to encourage their Christian brothers and sisters. We all need encouragement. Perhaps the blokes in particular amongst us won't admit it, because we don't like to admit we need anything, any help, but we do. We think that needing encouragement or any other help means we are

weak. Yet while Romans 15:1 tells strong Christians to bear with the weak, it then expands this out to include each of us, every one of us building up our neighbours. Of course In effect, every Christians is potentially weak because every Christian falls to live the perfect life we are called to. We all sin at least sometime, and for most of us, we regularly sin, so we all need encouragement to get back on track. All Christians need to call their brothers and sisters who are straying to come back near to Jesus, to repent and to keep trying to live the way God wants his children to.

Sometimes it is not periods of sin through which we need to encourage each other, but the trials that come across all of us on this side of heaven. Paul, James and Peter all encourage Christians in trials and persecutions in their letters, and we too need to encourage Christians as they suffer with sickness, bereavement, disappointments and other trials in this life.

And of course, there is another group who Christians should encourage - those who do not have faith in Jesus Christ for eternal life - or at least not yet. Encouraging these people to have faith is obviously fundamental to building up the church because it is how the church gains members. Someone plants a seed, encouraging a seed of faith to sprout, as Paul says he did in 1 Corinthians 3, and others water the seedling, encouraging life, while God gives growth into an established faith. In encouraging these people, we are co-workers in God's service. 1 Corinthians 3:9, co workers with God!

How do we encourage?

So if all Christians, and especially those with gifts of encouragement are called to encourage, how do we do it. Our readings today have given us some good examples that can guide us.

In our Old Testament reading, David is devastated when his son Absalom dies, despite the fact that Absalom has been leading a rebellion against his kingship and plotting his death. After Absalom is killed, David basically throws a tantrum and completely neglects and discourages his whole army. Not surprisingly, this was a rather sensitive time for the nation and not a time for losing the support of your army who had shown such loyalty to you. Joab, David's nephew, rebukes David and tells him that if he continues to humiliate his men and doesn't encourage them, then he will lose their

loyalty and his kingdom. All that David had to do was to get over his public sulking, sit in the gateway and let his men know he still cared about them, that he was still with them despite his own troubles.

Sometimes that is all we need to do to encourage each other - be there for them and be with them. You may not know the right words to say or even be able to do anything about their troubles, but reminding them you, and God are there for them can be all the encouragement they need. There will be times when we need to give them space to grieve, but they must know you are not far away, and are there when they need you.

A particular way we can be there for each other is by continuing to meet together. Hebrews 10:25 tells us to not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Meeting together spurs one another on toward love and good deeds. We have all gone through dry periods when making the effort to go to church on a Sunday morning just seems to be too much.

Another way we should encourage each other is with God's word. Romans 15:4 reminds us that everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope." We should encourage by sharing the word of God. It is helpful if we all keep Bible verses in our minds that have encouraged us in our difficulties that we can remind our suffering brothers and sisters in theirs. Don't just trot out Roman 8:28 that we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose, as in my experience this doesn't really help people see through their struggles, and could lead them to think that they don't love God enough or don't have enough faith, which is not really the message they need to hear in their struggles. Can you think of verses that have helped you when you have been struggling?

Some of the verses that have encouraged me through the years include:

Heb 4: 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are —yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of

grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

The reminds me that God is not remote, he has suffered and can empathise in our struggles and temptations.

Psalm 23:4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

This is commonly used in funerals, but it is relevant in all our trials.

2Cor 1.3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

1 Peter 5:10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

2Cor4.17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

We all struggle in trials and temptations, and we're all have a toll in encouraging each other during those times.

In conclusion, let us all, and especially those who the Holy spirit has given the gift of encouragement encourage those we know who are not yet Christians, as well as our Christian sisters and brothers as they live their Christian lives and particularly during their trials and temptations. Let us not give up meeting together, but consider how we may spur one another on, encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day, the judgement day, when Jesus Christ returns, approaching.

Amen