

Cooma Anglican Sunday 30 November 2025 HC 2.1 (Sung responses)

Introduction

Advent Candle

LOVING JESUS, May this Advent candle remind us that after your ascension into heaven, the angels said you would come back the same way. Until then, help us to be ready—not giving in to temptation, reaching out to a hurting world with mercy and love, and declaring the Good News of salvation. Help us to be expectant, not complacent. Come Lord Jesus. **AMEN**

Hymn – TIS 264 Hark, a herald voice is calling

**Hark, a herald voice is calling: 'Christ is near,' it seems to say,
'cast away the dreams of darkness, waken, children of the day!'**

**Wakened by the solemn warning let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling shines upon the morning skies.**

**Lo, the Lamb, so long expected comes with pardon down from heav'n;
let us meet him with repentance, pray that we may be forgiv'n.**

**So when love comes forth in judgment, debts and doubts and wrongs to clear,
faithful may he find his servants watching till the dawn appear.**

The Grace

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Sentence of Scripture

The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Romans 13:12

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.

The Great Commandments

'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.

[Sung] Lord, Have mercy x3

Christ, have mercy x3

Lord, have mercy x3

The Gloria (sung)

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of God the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the most high,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father, Amen

Prayer of the Day

God of peace,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; so that on the last day, when your Son Jesus shall come again to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to eternal life through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

² In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. ³ Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. ⁵ Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

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

Psalm 122

¹ I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

² **Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem.**

³ Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together.

⁴ **That is where the tribes go up—the tribes of the LORD—to praise the name of the LORD according to the statute given to Israel.**

⁵ There stand the thrones for judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you be secure.**

⁷ May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels."

⁸ **For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, "Peace be within you."**

⁹ **For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your prosperity.**

Romans 13:9-14

⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹²

The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

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

Matthew 24:36-44

³⁶ “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left.⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.⁴² “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into.⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

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

Sermon - Advent 1 - Looking forward to the day Romans 13:8-14

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.

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

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3.16

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.

The Confession

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.

Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Agnus Dei (sung)

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

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 497 Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Let all mortal flesh keep silence And with fear and trembling stand

Ponder nothing earthly-minded For with blessing in His hand

Christ our God to earth descending comes full homage to demand

King of kings yet born of Mary As of old on earth He stood

Lord of lords in human vesture In the body and the blood

He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food

Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way

As the Light of light comes shining From the realms of endless day

That the powers of hell may vanish As the darkness clears away

At His feet the six winged seraphs Cherubim with sleepless eye

Veil their faces to the Presence As with ceaseless voice they cry

Alleluia alleluia alleluia Lord Most High

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.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us. By his death on the cross, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin, and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

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:

[Sung]Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus 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 given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

[Sung]Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded: proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

[Sung]Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Holy Communion

As this broken bread was once many grains, which have been gathered together and made one bread: so may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

The gifts of God for the people of God

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.

The Lord's Supper is open to all who love the Lord. Grape juice is available.

Please come to the Communion Rail if you are able, observing appropriate social distancing.

After Communion

Gracious God, we thank you that in this sacrament you assure us of your goodness and love. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving and help us to grow in love and obedience that we may serve you in the world and finally be brought to that table where all your saints feast with you for ever.

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. Amen

Notices

Hymn – TIS 315 Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord

**Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword:
his truth is marching on.**

Chorus

**Glory, glory, hallelujah,
glory, glory, hallelujah,
glory, glory, hallelujah,
his truth is marching on.**

**He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
he is sifting out the hearts of all before his judgment seat:
O be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on. *Chorus***

**In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in his bosom which transfigures you and me:
as he died to make us holy, let us live to make us free,
while God is marching on. *Chorus***

**He is coming like the glory of the morning on the wave;
he is wisdom to the mighty; he is succour to the brave:
so the world shall be his foot-stool, and the soul of time his slave:
our God is marching on. *Chorus***

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.

Cooma Anglican Sermon 30 Nov 2025 - Looking forward to the day

Romans 13:8-14

For the last few weeks we've been looking at the gifts of grace in Romans 12.

Hopefully you remember how I said Romans 1-12 talk about how salvation has come to everyone, Jews and non Jews alike through Jesus's death and resurrection. I said it was critical we understood this before we look at chapters 12 to the end which are telling us how we should live in response to the salvation that Jesus had won for us. We mustn't get the cart before the horse: we seek to live as Romans 12 through 16 tells us because we have been saved, in response to being saved, not so we can be saved.

Romans 12

To put our passage from Romans 13 into context, Chapter 12 tells us to worship God, not by offering dead animals for sacrifice, but by offering ourselves as living sacrifices - by living for God, the way God wants us to, even if this doesn't come naturally to sinful human beings. Paul tells us that we live for God by exercising the gifts of grace that the holy spirit has given us to build up God people, the church in which all Christians, all who have been saved, are members.

It then goes on to give a lot of short, pithy instructions as to how we are to live: acting in love and rejecting evil. Paul then tells us in the start of chapter 13 to respect the earthly authorities God has placed over us, and then we get to today's passage, which tells us that all of God's commands can be summed up in the word love. Of course we know from Jesus's words, and then it gets to the passage I want to focus on today, Romans 13:11-14. It says

11 And do this (that is, live the way he is telling us) understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

Understand the present time

Paul starts this section by calling us to understand the time we are now living in. But when are we living?

Firstly, there is no time for slumber. In our gospel reading, Jesus answers the disciples when they asked what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age. He basically says that no one, not even himself, knows when he will return, but we need to be ready when he comes, on watch, not sleeping, for when he

returns. Basically, once the Holy spirit had come at Pentecost after Jesus had risen from the dead and ascended into heaven, nothing had to happen except the number that God had planned being saved before Jesus returns. We don't know how long it will take for them to be saved, so it is basically a waiting game. Of course, that we just sit on our hands and wait, we have our part to play in sharing the gospel of salvation so people are saved and God has to save them, but nothing else has to happen. We are in the last days now, and Jesus can return at any time.

Secondly, Paul says that our Salvation is nearer than when we first believed. This is obvious because of the way time works, every moment since we put our faith in Jesus is a moment closer to experiencing the perfection of our Salvation, our eternal life. The Bible tells us we will experience this when we die in this earthly sphere and go to be with him, or when he returns to gather all the Saints to be with him. We don't know which of these Paul thought that he would experience, but either way, Paul desperately wanted to be ready himself, to persevere, and for the Romans to be ready.

Jesus had given a serious warning in our gospel reading that some will not be ready, some will be effectively sleeping. Two men will be in a field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. This may be talking about a rapture where Christians are literally taken from this earth, but I think it is more likely simply saying that not everyone will be saved and that we cannot tell by appearances who will and won't be saved, only God knows. We can be certain that some will not be saved.

The day is almost here

Thirdly, Paul says the day is almost here. You might think this is a bit rich since Paul wrote those words nearly two thousand years ago and Jesus has not returned yet. Nevertheless, none of us is all that far away from meeting Jesus, no one here is more than one hundred years or so from meeting Jesus, and as much as I hate to face the thought of my own mortality, most of us here this morning are considerably closer.

How shall we therefore live

And so, since this is the case, how are we to live? What are we to do while we are staying awake and keeping watch?

Our Old Testament reading from Isaiah says that in the last days, the nations, that is, people who aren't God's special people, the Jews, will flock to Mount Zion, God's special mountain. It's where his temple is, where he meets with mankind and where He will teach them his ways that they may walk in his paths." Today, this message is to those who aren't God's people because they don't know Jesus, and it's also a warning to those who only think they do. As the days of Jesus's return draw closer, those who don't know him will be eager to learn of God and walk in his

ways. It worries me that this suggests that many in the church who think they do know God's ways don't see the need to flock to the temple putting their faith in Jesus, they won't walk in his ways and will miss out on eternal life.

Also, in our gospel reading, Jesus told us to keep watch, and to be ready, while Paul in Romans goes into a little more detail. He tells us to put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. We are to behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Again, I need to emphasise that this is our response to what Jesus had already done for us. Paul tells us to clothe ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and that gratifying the desires of the flesh stands in the way of us being ready for Jesus's return, whenever that may come. Instead, it is vital we focus on Jesus and living his way. It is helpful to think that we should live as if Jesus has already returned and is watching over us, and to always live in that light so we are always ready when he does return or call us home.

Advent

Finally, as I have mentioned, today is the first Sunday in Advent, in fact, the first day of the church year. Advent is the Latin word for coming, and for the weeks leading up to Christmas, Christians traditionally use the season to look forward to Jesus coming. We look back to when Jesus came the first time, leaving the majesty of heaven and God the father's side 2000 years ago, to be born of an unmarried mother in the town of Bethlehem. He came to heal the sick, to raise the dead and ultimately to upset the religious and political authorities to the extent that they conspired to have him illegally arrested and executed in the most brutal and agonizing method devised by man, despite being completely and absolutely innocent, that he pay the penalty we deserve for our son, our rejection of God. We look back to that humble first coming, but we start Advent by looking forward to his glorious second coming, as we have been doing today.

So, Let us reflect on the fact that, as Romans tells us, this is the time, the hour has come for us to wake from sleep. Our salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.¹² The night is far gone; the day is at hand. Let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.¹³ Let us walk properly as in the daytime, as we await the absolute certainty of the day of Jesus's return.

Amen