

**Sunday 17 March 2024 Lent 5/ St Patrick's day**  
10am Cooma, 1130 Nimmitabel, 4pm Adaminaby

### **Hymn - Crown him with many crowns**

**Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon the throne;  
hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own:  
awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for me,  
and hail him as your chosen king through all eternity.**

**Crown him the Son of God before the worlds began:  
and we who tread where he has trod crown him the Son of Man,  
who every grief has known that wrings the human breast,  
and takes and bears them for his own, that all in him may rest.**

**Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,  
those wounds yet visible above in beauty glorified:  
no angel there on high can fully bear that sight,  
but downwards bends a burning eye at mysteries so bright.**

**Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,  
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save:  
his glories now we sing who died, and rose on high;  
who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.**

**Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a sceptre sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise:  
his reign shall know no end, and round his pierced feet  
fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.**

**Crown him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time,  
Creator of the rolling spheres, majestic and sublime:  
all hail, Redeemer, hail! for you have died for me;  
your praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.**

### **The Grace**

of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you.  
**And also with you.**

'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.**

### **Sentence of the Day**

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."

Mark 8:29

### **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

Holy One of Israel, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, so that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### Jonah 1:11-2:2

<sup>11</sup> The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?”

<sup>12</sup> “Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.”

<sup>13</sup> Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. <sup>14</sup>Then they cried out to the LORD, “Please, LORD, do not let us die for taking this man’s life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, LORD, have done as you pleased.”

<sup>15</sup> Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. <sup>16</sup> At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.

<sup>17</sup> Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. <sup>2.1</sup> From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. <sup>2</sup> He said: “In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry.

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

### Psalms 119:9-16

<sup>9</sup> How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.

<sup>10</sup> **I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.**

<sup>11</sup> I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

<sup>12</sup> **Praise be to you, LORD; teach me your decrees.**

<sup>13</sup> With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth.

<sup>14</sup> **I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.**

<sup>15</sup> I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.

<sup>16</sup> **I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.**

### 1 Peter 3:18-22

<sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. <sup>19</sup> After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—<sup>20</sup> to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, <sup>21</sup> and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him:

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

## Mark 8:27-9:13, 33-37

<sup>27</sup> Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?” <sup>28</sup> They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

<sup>29</sup> “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.” <sup>30</sup> Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup> He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.” <sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

<sup>9:1</sup> And he said to them, “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.”

<sup>2</sup> After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. <sup>3</sup> His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup> (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

<sup>7</sup> Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!”

<sup>8</sup> Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. <sup>10</sup> They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what “rising from the dead” meant. <sup>11</sup> And they asked him, “Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?”

<sup>12</sup> Jesus replied, “To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected? <sup>13</sup> But I tell you, Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished, just as it is written about him.”

<sup>33</sup> They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” <sup>34</sup> But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

<sup>36</sup> He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

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

**Sermon - Knowing Jesus**

**Question Time**

### The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the world and the church

**Response:** Christ Jesus, intercede for us, and 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

Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against any one, so that your Father who is in heaven may forgive your trespasses. Mark 11:25

### 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.**

### 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 - O My Saviour lifted

O my Saviour, lifted from the earth for me,  
draw me, in thy mercy, at your side to be.

Lift my earth-bound longings, fix them, Lord, above;  
draw me with the magnet of thy mighty love.

Lord, thine arms are stretching ever far and wide,  
to enfold thy children to thy loving side.

And I come, O Jesus: dare I turn away?  
No, thy love hath conquered, and I come today.

Bringing all my burdens, sorrow, sin and care;  
at thy feet I lay them, and I leave them there.

### 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:

**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.'

**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:

**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 - Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art  
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord  
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son  
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

Be thou my armour, my sword for the fight,  
be thou my dignity, thou my delight  
thou my souls shelter and thou my high tower  
raise thou me heavenward, my treasure thou art.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

## 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**

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

## **Sermon - Knowing Jesus - Mark 8:27-9:50**

Is anyone here a fan of the reality TV show *Married at First Sight*? I have to ask because I once preached a sermon in another church where I made some disparaging comments about another Japanese dating show, only to find out that my rector was a fan of the show. Anyway the premise of *Married at First Sight* is apparently that couples who have never met previously, and don't know each other in any way, get married on the show, and their roller coaster relationships are dissected by so-called experts and are presented as entertainment. Apparently 2.5 million Australians tune into this so-called entertainment every week. I must disclose that I am not one of them, and I have never watched more than a few seconds of the show while flicking through channels.

The reality is that marriages are hard work, even when you have been together a long time. Even then, many couples don't really know each other, no matter how long they have been together, or think they know each other. You may have heard about Brian Earl Johnson? He has just been sentenced for murdering his estranged wife Kelly Wilkinsom in front of their 3 children in 2021. They had met online in 2011, before Kelly moved to the US so they could be together and were married a month later. At the time of her death they had known each other for 10 years, and were married for much of that time. Yet she obviously did not know what her husband could do, and the results were tragic.

The reason I mention this is that at the time of this morning's gospel reading, Jesus's disciples have been with him for probably two and a half years, but they don't really know him.

Sure, they know his name, they know he is a great teacher and a miracle worker, but I don't think they really knew him - who he is, what makes him tick, what he came to do. They had been given lots of hints in the first 8 chapters of *Mark*, but they haven't really got it. Now however, it is time to lay it on the line. It is time for them to understand fully who Jesus is.

### **Who do people say Jesus is?**

At the beginning of our reading, Jesus starts with the question, *Who do people say I am?* This is a bit less threatening, less of an HSC exam question, than 'Who do you say I am?' and a good segue into this important conversation. Their answer is telling: "*Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.*" These were all commonly expected people in the Jewish culture of that day.

As we heard last week, John the baptist had been murdered by Herod, but Herod was convinced he'd risen.

Elijah was an Old Testament prophet who had been taken directly to heaven without actually dying, and Malachi had prophesied he would return before the final days.

Deut 10 also prophesies that God would raise up a prophet like Moses.

However, Jesus is far more interested in who his disciples think he is. 29 *"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."*

### Jesus is the Messiah

Despite all the previous hints, all the suggestions, it is only now that Peter finally gets it. Jesus is the Messiah, the anointed one, the holy one of God. In Jesus's day there was a wide expectation in a transcendent saviour figure. The expectation was not universal, and there was huge variation in the details and nature of the Messiah and what he would do. Some thought he would be purely human, others that he would be super-human in some way, even divine. We have hundreds of messianic references in the Old Testament and Jewish religious, political and historical texts that point to a Messiah, so it was a very common expectation. Even amongst Jesus's disciples there was a variation in the expectations, but at least it was a starting point.

### Jesus is the suffering Messiah who will die and rise again

Jesus then goes on to fill in some details, and in particular explain some aspects of his role that weren't expected. He said the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. A few of our references did suggest that the Messiah would be killed - probably in battle, but I can't see any that suggest he would be raised again. That is not to say that they thought it couldn't happen, it is just not part of their core-expectations. Nevertheless, Jesus made it clear that he would suffer, die and be raised again, and as we saw from Peter's reaction, he found this extremely difficult to accept. Jesus had to rebuke Peter, and even compare his response with Satan, reflecting human ways, not God's ways.

As we know, his disciples had trouble understanding this, and Jesus has to repeat the lesson in verse 31, telling them "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." Even then, and after the Transfiguration, 32 But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

### Jesus is the new Moses and Elijah

This brings us to the strange narrative of the transfiguration. About a week later, Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. 3 His clothes became dazzling white, whiter



than anyone in the world could bleach them. 4 And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" 8 Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

The cloud and Jesus' radiance would have immediately made the disciples think of Moses during the exodus, but the appearance, and then disappearance of Elijah and Moses are a bit more complicated. I mentioned earlier that Elijah and a prophet like Moses were expected before the last days, and this explains why they appeared. I think the reason they disappeared, and left Jesus behind was to show that Jesus was taking over their role, and they were no longer required. Jesus was the new Moses, saving his people from slavery to death, but dying in their place, and he was also the new prophet Elijah, speaking God's word, performing God's miracles, and ascending to heaven to show that death was conquered.

### **Jesus is the Servant King Messiah**

The final lesson that I want to mention today that Jesus gives about his identity is that his Messiah-ship not only involved his suffering and death, he is also a servant Messiah. Many of the Messianic expectations were of a powerful, political king, who restored Israel by defeating her political, human enemies in war, but Jesus was clear "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

To summarise what Jesus said in this passage about his identity:

He is the Messiah, but due to the variation in understandings of the Messiah, we wouldn't meet everyone's expectation of the Messiah. Some aspects, including his resurrection, wouldn't have been expected by anyone.

Secondly, he had come to suffer and die for us. Many did not expect this, although some did.

Thirdly, He is the new Moses and Elijah, speaking God's word in prophecy, and performing miracles with the power of God,

And fourthly, he is the servant king, not the powerful political ruler Messiah that many expected.

The reason that Jesus taught his disciples these things about himself is that they also said a lot about what his disciples should be like. They have to understand that he was the Messiah, but that he didn't meet everyone's expectation of the Messiah. As Jesus was rejected and persecuted, so would his disciples would be persecuted and rejected by those who expected, or at least wanted a different saviour.

He was the new Moses and Elijah. Like Moses and Elijah, his disciples would need to speak God's word, and do God's work in God's power. As the Messiah who would die and rise again, Jesus's followers would expect, in this life to die, and rise to eternal life in the next. Because he was the suffering Messiah, they also would suffer. He told them "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

As disciples of the suffering Messiah, his followers could also expect to suffer, and perhaps even lose their lives: He told them: 35 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

As disciples of the servant King, the disciples also had to be servants of all, like a young child. "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

Of course, it was not only Jesus's original followers that needed to know these things. They apply just as much to his followers today. They are important to me, they are important to you, and they are important to anyone hearing about Jesus, anyone considering being a follower of his.

We, like Jesus, Moses and Elijah, need to speak God's word, and do God's works, and say and do them in the power of Jesus's Holy Spirit.

We, like Jesus whom we follow, can expect difficulties, persecution and rejection, the same way Jesus and his followers ever since have been persecuted and rejected.

We, like Jesus and his disciples, minister as servants. Even if we are in leadership roles in our families, our neighbourhoods, our workplaces or even our churches, our leadership has to be modelled on Jesus servant leadership, putting others' needs before our own.

We need to know who Jesus really is, and not be swayed by the multitude of different ideas of who Jesus the Messiah is today. Most of all, like Jesus's original disciples, we need to know Jesus, not just know about him. We need to share our lives with him, live the life he lived, and live his life in front of others that they may also come to know and follow Jesus, and come to share the eternal life that he has freely given us, and is freely offering them.

Do you know Jesus in this way? Can others see his life in you in this way without us causing them to stumble?

Let me pray.