

Cooma Anglican 12 May 2024 - 1st Order APBA

Welcome

Hymn TIS 222 - Rock of Ages

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labours of my hands
Can fulfil Thy law's demands;
These for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone:
In my hand no price I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to thy cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me saviour, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death,
When I rise to worlds unknown,
And behold Thee on Thy throne,
Rock of ages cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

Greeting

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

Sentence of the Day

I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Luke 13:3

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

Lord, have mercy on us, and write your law in our hearts by your Holy Spirit

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God,

as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, so that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

The Ministry of the Word

Genesis 3:3–19

³ But God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "⁴ "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. ⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." ¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" ¹² The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." ¹⁶ To the woman he said, "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labour you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." ¹⁷ To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

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

Psalm 8

¹ The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good.

² **The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God.**

³ They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one.

⁴ **Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge, Who eat up my people as they eat bread, And do not call on the LORD?**

⁵ There they are in great fear, For God is with the generation of the righteous.

⁶ **You shame the counsel of the poor, But the LORD is his refuge.**

⁷ **Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD brings back the captivity of His people, Let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.**

Romans 3:9-20

⁹ What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. ¹⁰ As it is written: "There is no one

righteous, not even one; 11 there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.” 13 “Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.” “The poison of vipers is on their lips.” 14 “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.” 15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 ruin and misery mark their ways, 17 and the way of peace they do not know.” 18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.” 19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. 20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Luke 13:1-5

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

13 Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. 2 Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? 3 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. 4 Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” This is the gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Sermon Sin and the Gospel

Question Time

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.

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 523 Here lord, we take this broken bread

**Here, Lord, we take the broken bread
and drink the cup, believing
that by your life our souls are fed,
your parting gifts receiving.**

**As you have given, so we would give
ourselves for other's healing;
as you have lived, so we would live
the father's love revealing.**

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.

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

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 521 O Christ at Your first eucharist You prayed

**O Christ at Your first eucharist You prayed
That all Your church might be for ever one
At every eucharist this prayer is made
With longing heart and soul
Your will be done
O may we all one bread one body be
Through this blessed sacrament of unity**

**For all Your church O Lord we intercede
That You will make our sad divisions cease
O draw us nearer each to each we plead**

**By drawing all to You the prince of peace
Thus may we all one bread one body be
Through this blessed sacrament of unity**

**We pray for those who wander from Your fold
O bring them back great Shepherd of the sheep
Back to the faith which saints believed of old
The faith for all Your holy church to keep
Soon may we all one bread one body be
Through this blessed sacrament of unity**

**So Lord at length when sacraments shall cease
May we be one with all Your church above
One with Your saints in one unbroken peace
One with Your saints in one unbounded love
Far happier then in peace and love to be
One with the Trinity-in-Unity**

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

Who amongst us does any cooking?

Of those who cook, who follows recipes?

I very rarely follow recipes when I cook, but sometimes I do when I'm cooking something for the first few times, but then I go more *laissez faire*, varying ingredients and quantities based on what I have in the cupboard. When we bought a bread maker a few years ago we started by being extremely fastidious, but gradually we took less care about measuring the flour, the water and the yeast, and you know what, the quality of the bread went down hill.

Who would have thought that following the manufacturer's directions could be important (or is that just a man's view of the world?)

Last week, when we started looking at the gospel, we saw how God is perfectly good, and how he manufactured the world and it was perfectly good once God had put Eve into the world for relationship with Adam. As we read in our old testament reading this morning, God gave instructions with the works he made, and let me tell you, they were a lot less complicated than those that came with my bread maker.

In verse 2:16, God told Adam, *16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."*

That was it, just one instruction, enjoy the fruit from any tree, except for one. How hard could it be? It was as if my breadmaker said just put whatever ingredients you like in, but always put the water in before the flour. You might get a lot of interesting loaves (and we certainly have), but we haven't burnt out the machine with a solid lump of damp flour sitting under the water.

Definition Of Sin

"Not following God's direction" is what the Bible calls sin. In the Bible, the word sin is derived from the idea of missing the mark - an competitive archer falling to hit the target they were aiming for, which would lead to them missing out on a prize. The idea of sin is that you fail to follow the direction God gives you, then you miss out on the blessing he offers.

The Bible has many ways of talking about sin. In many instances, like with Adam and Eve, it is about breaking a specific commandment of God, like not to eat fruit from a certain tree, or to keep the 10 commandments. This idea is also found in 1 John 3:4 which describes sin as lawlessness: not specifically breaking God's law, but living as if they simply don't apply to you. In many other cases, sin is seen as idolatry or serving false gods. For much of the history of Israel, these false gods were wooden statues or physical idols, or perhaps the sun or moon which the people worshipped in the way that only God should be worshipped. They bowed down to them, they gave them offerings and sacrifices and so on.

So there are many ways of describing sin, but the way that appeals to me most is that sin is moving God out of the centre of our lives, and installing ourselves. Good made us, and

provided the directions for how we live, and sin disobeys, or at least ignores God's directions for whatever else we think is best. In other words, sin is putting "I" at the centre of my life, kiddy like it is at the centre of the word sin.

The Origin Of Sin

Now, in *Genesis*, despite the one simple instruction, Adam and Eve miss the mark. Satan, in the form of a serpent, first questions how serious God is, and then tempts Eve to go against God's only commandment. She does this, and Adam is an informed, willing accomplice.

Consequently, Adam and Eve miss out on the harmony they had in the garden of Eden, the perfect harmony between God, humankind and the rest of creation. Their sin also brought death into the world, a world that was never intended to include death.

Now, you might be thinking that that's a nice story, a nice little legend that was made up to explain how the world came to be and why it is not as comfortable, as good as we would like it to be. I don't want to get into a discussion as to whether it is literally true, but at the very least it is saying that there is a right way to respond to our creator, and Adam and Eve have fallen short of God's ideal, and paid the consequence. It is not saying that no one ever does good things. Even after they were expelled from Eden, Adam and Eve did good things, but by falling sorry of God's standard, they couldn't please God, sin had severed their rostock with God. The Bible says that as a consequence, all of mankind had inherited the guilt of Adam and Eve's sin, and the universal human condition is that we all fall short of God's perfect standard, and we all bear the consequences.

There are a couple of important things to understand about the Bible's understanding of sin that are different from the world's.

Universality of sin

Firstly, sin is universal. Our reading from *Romans* this morning puts it in the negative - no one is righteous, but later in verse 23 - all have sinned and fallen short. There are not good people and bad people, everyone, including Christians, are sinners, no matter how much we try to be good.

Also, I am not saying that no one ever does good things. Even after they were expelled from Eden, Adam and Eve did good things, but by falling short of God's standard, they couldn't please God, sin had severed their relationship with God. The Bible says that all of mankind had inherited the guilt of Adam and Eve's sin, and the universal human condition is that we all fall short of God's perfect standard.

The Consequence of sin

Secondly, sin always has consequences. I've already mentioned that sin brought death into the world. Not only did Adam and Eve eventually die, but so do every human and creature that have lived since.

You see, there are no victimless sins, as sin always breaks down our relationship with God, as well as our relationship with other people and the world. Even if our sin doesn't directly hurt

anyone else, we must bear the consequences, and we are its victims. Adam and Eve may have thought their eating the fruit only affected themselves, but it meant all of humanity were cast out of Eden, and humankind and the world have been in conflict ever since.

In terms of our relationship with God, there are no worse and less worse sins. Some sins may have a greater apparent impact on our relationship with each other and the world at this time, but every sin affects our relationship with God unless it is forgiven. We saw this in our gospel reading, all sin leads to judgement, all who sin, that is everyone, will perish unless they repent.

In conclusion, all of humankind's relationship with our creator God has been severed due to our sinful nature we have inherited from Adam and Eve, our forebears. Not only is death now part of our world and we all expect to die, but we have also been cast out of the perfect world that God created for a world of pain and suffering, a world we continue to mess up as we continue to sin.

This may sound like pretty dire punishment for eating the wrong fruit, but as we heard last week, the world was created by God to be completely perfect without sin whatsoever. Consequently, God needed to remove sin from his perfect creation, and this means the world has to be judged and everything found wanting removed.

Also, following the analogy of "I" being the centre of sin, and I replacing God as the centre of our lives, sin is telling God we don't want anything to do with him, and the judgement we get is simply him giving us what we insist we want, despite the love that God has for all of his perfect creation, but not the sin that had crept into it.

Nevertheless, Adam and Eve, expulsion from Eden and death are not the end of the story. They are not the end of God's plan for his creation, and they are not the end of the gospel. However, you will have to wait for the next sermon in this series to hear the next part of the gospel. But right now, does anyone have any questions or comments about sin in the gospel, or perhaps on Bible readings today?