

**SUNDAY 25 August 2024 - St Paul's Cooma 9.30am**

### **Introduction**

#### **Hymn TIS 161 - Tell out my soul**

**Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice  
Tender to me the promise of His Word  
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice**

**Tell out my soul the greatness of His name  
Make known His might the deeds His arm has done  
His mercy sure from age to age the same  
His holy name the Lord the mighty one**

**Tell out my soul the greatness of His might  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight  
The hungry fed the humble lifted high**

**Tell out my soul the glories of His Word  
Firm is His promise and His mercy sure  
Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord  
To children's children and for evermore**

### **Greeting**

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 the day**

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord. Acts 3:19

### **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.'

### **Prayer of the Day**

Everliving God, your Son, Jesus Christ, gave himself as living bread for the life of the world: give us such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

### **The Ministry of the Word - Deuteronomy 18:14-20**

<sup>14</sup> The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practise sorcery or divination. But as for you, the LORD your God has not permitted you to do so. <sup>15</sup> The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. <sup>16</sup> For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, "Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die."

<sup>17</sup> The LORD said to me: "What they say is good. <sup>18</sup> I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. <sup>19</sup> I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. <sup>20</sup> But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death."

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

### **Psalm 51:1-17**

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup> **Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

<sup>4</sup> **Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.**

<sup>5</sup> Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

<sup>6</sup> **Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.**

<sup>7</sup> Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup> **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

<sup>10</sup> **Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> **Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.

<sup>14</sup> **Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Saviour, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.**

<sup>15</sup> Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.

<sup>16</sup> **You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.**

**<sup>17</sup> My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.**

### **Acts 3:2-21**

<sup>2</sup> Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. <sup>3</sup> When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. <sup>4</sup> Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” <sup>5</sup> So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. <sup>6</sup> Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” <sup>7</sup> Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. <sup>8</sup> He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. <sup>9</sup> When all the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup> they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

<sup>11</sup> While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon’s Colonnade. <sup>12</sup> When Peter saw this, he said to them: “Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? <sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. <sup>14</sup> You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. <sup>15</sup> You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. <sup>16</sup> By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see. <sup>17</sup> “Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. <sup>18</sup> But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup> Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, <sup>20</sup> and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. <sup>21</sup> Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.

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

### **Luke 1:67-75**

#### **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

<sup>67</sup> His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

<sup>68</sup> “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. <sup>69</sup> He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David <sup>70</sup> (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), <sup>71</sup> salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us— <sup>72</sup> to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, <sup>73</sup> the oath he swore to our father Abraham: <sup>74</sup> to rescue us from the

hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear <sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

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

## Sermon -Acts 3 - Peter's Second Sermon

### Question Time

### Prayers

Let us pray for the world and the church.

Response: Gracious God, 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.**

### 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 TIS 562 - Who would true valour see

**Who would true valour see, let them come hither;  
those here will constant be, come wind, come weather.  
There's no discouragement, shall make them once relent  
each from a vowed intent to be a pilgrim.  
Those who beset them round, with dismal stories,  
cannot the brave confound; their strength the more is.  
No lion can them fright, they'll with a giant fight;  
but each will have a right to be a pilgrim.**

**Hobgoblin nor foul fiend, can daunt their spirit:  
they know they at the end, shall life inherit.  
Then, fancies, fly away; they'll scorn what people say,  
and each work night and day, to be a pilgrim.**

### **The 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.**

Loving God, we thank you for this world of wonder and delight. You have given it to us to care for, so that all your creatures may enjoy its bounty.  
Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

We thank you that when we turned away from you, you sent Jesus to live and work as one of us, and bring us back to you. He showed us how to love you and set us free to love and serve one another.  
Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

We thank you that on the cross Jesus took away our sin, all that keeps us from each other and from you. He frees us from hate and fear, from all that destroys love and trust.  
Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

And so with everyone who believes in you, with all the saints and angels, we rejoice and 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 we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine; may we who receive them, as Jesus said, share his body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said, 'Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup and gave you thanks. He shared the cup with them and said, 'This is my blood poured out so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me.'

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

You have gathered us together to feed on Christ and to remember all he has done for us. Fill us with your Spirit that we may follow Jesus in all we do and say, working for justice and bringing your peace to this world that you have made. Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen**

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

**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.

### **After Communion**

Father of all we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. **Keep us in this hope that we have grasped: so we and all your people will be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name.**

### **Hymn TIS 547 - 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, Be Thou my true Word  
I ever with Thee And Thou with me Lord  
Thou my great Father thy child let me be;  
Thou in me dwelling And I one with Thee**

**Be Thou my armour, my sword for the fight  
Be Thou my dignity, Thou my delight  
Thou my soul's shelter And Thou my high tower  
Raise Thou me heavenward O power of my power**

**Riches I scorn and the world's empty praise  
Thou mine inheritance, Now and always  
Thou and Thou only the first in my heart  
High King of heaven My treasure Thou art**

**High King of heaven, after 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**

### **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 - Acts 3 - Peter's Second Sermon 2

### Introduction

This morning we are looking at Acts Chapter 3, Peter's second sermon. We heard Peter's first sermon last week when we looked at the day of Pentecost, and you will recall Peter made quite an impression - or at least the Holy Spirit did through Peter's sermon - 3000 people became Christians that day.

Today I want to look at what Peter included in his second sermon, to see what we can learn as we share the gospel. Of course, most sermons are different, and every conversation you have about Jesus will be different. Nevertheless, it is worthwhile looking at what Peter said in that situation to see what pointers we can get for our sermons and conversations.

### Healing the Lame Beggar

However, before we look at the sermon, we have to notice that there was a miraculous healing first. Peter healed a man who had been lame from birth, and *the man jumped to his feet and began to walk. He went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.* You may have noticed that that doesn't happen every time I preach, at least not here, so what are we to make of it?

The reality is that God still heals people today, but we often don't recognise God's hand guiding the doctors, other medical professionals and the pharmacologists. When people are healed by surgery, or drugs, by physiotherapy or hundreds of other types of healing ministries, we may not notice God's working, but he is invariably there. He is the God of life, and he is there whenever people gain true life. I suspect that it is because much of the miraculousness is hidden within "conventional" healing that we don't respond like the beggar did. It is not just because we are conservative Anglicans that we are not praising God by walking and jumping in our services, but to be really honest, I really wouldn't mind if you did.



Also, the healing may not seem to be happening just before I preach (although it wouldn't surprise me if someone suddenly regained the ability to walk rather than sit through my sermon), but I believe that God is constantly bringing healed life to people. We certainly pray for people's healing during our services, so I am sure God's healing work is going on during our services.

So this section should be telling us that God still heals, and is still healing people today. We should praise him whenever we see it happen, knowing his hand is healing miraculously, is on the medical professionals where they are involved, and that he is constantly healing, even when we don't notice it happening.

### **Peter's Second Sermon**

This moves us on to Peter's actual sermon. You will recall from my previous sermon series on the gospel that there are 4 key elements of the gospel - creation, sin, Jesus and restoration, and today I want to show how Peter includes all these elements in his sermon.

The first element of the gospel is that God created the world perfect. Peter doesn't mention this in detail as his Jewish listeners would have assumed this. They would all have been brought up hearing Genesis and how God created the world in six days. Nevertheless, he does hint at Jesus' involvement in creation, and his divinity and membership of the Trinity by referring to Jesus as the "author of life". Only God can give life, and Peter is clear that Jesus not only gives, but is the author of life.

The second element of the gospel is mankind's sin. Peter doesn't mention how Adam and Eve sinned in the garden of Eden, but he will and truly reminds his listeners of their own sin. He says that they killed the author of life, they handed him over to be killed, and they disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. They disowned Jesus, the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released. When you talk about sin, it doesn't get any more serious than killing God, and that is what Peter said the Jews had done. We of course might ask what that has to do with us, 2000 years later,

and probably not even related to the people that Peter was talking to? The reality is that we all have ignored God, we all have rejected him - wanted him to get out of our lives so we can do what we want rather than what he wants and he knows what is good for us. We may not have been physically involved in killing him, but that is only the extension of our rejecting him, not wanting him in our lives, and all our sins are responsible for sending Christ to the cross. We are all responsible for putting him to death.

Now, Peter is a bit conciliatory when he says they acted in ignorance, as did their leaders, but this is really no excuse. Peter is clear about sin, and that his listeners, and we, are as guilty as you can get.

This brings us to the third element of the gospel, and the heart of Peter's sermon - redemption through Jesus Christ. As I preached a couple of months ago, Peter recounts God's two part plan of salvation. He talks of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, part one of the plan. The God who chose Israel as his special people. He talks of Moses, through whom God gave the Old Testament law, the law that convicts us of our guilt, and provides the model for part two of salvation, Jesus Christ. He tells of the Old Testament prophets who point forward to Jesus, from Moses who prophesied that God would send Jesus, the prophet like himself. He tells of Samuel, and all the other prophets, like Isaiah who foretold the Messiah, Jesus, coming, his suffering, death and resurrection, and his fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham that through him the whole world would be blessed.

Peter tells his listeners what they must do to access the redemption that Jesus offers, how they must Repent, then, and turn to God, so that their sins may be wiped out. He says this is why he sent Jesus, his servant, to them, to bless them by turning each of them from their wicked ways."

Finally, Peter gets to the final element of the gospel, restoration.

He talks of this Intermediate world we live in, where Jesus has ascended to heaven Heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything. In this intermediate world there is still sickness and death, and the need for God's healing as shown in the lame beggar, but the perfect restored world that was promised through the prophets will come. Jesus will return to restore this world to the perfection it had in the beginning, with perfect, harmonious relationships between God, mankind, and the rest of creation.

We don't hear how people responded to this second sermon of Peter's until chapter 4, but taking a sneak peek ahead, we read in verse 4:4 many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand. Since about 3000 were converted at Pentecost, about 2000 men believed Peter's second message and turned to Christ that day. Acts doesn't mention the number of women and children, so it is likely that the total number was probably about twice that number, so the Holy Spirit was really active in bringing people to belief, turning them to Christ and blessing all peoples on earth.

This is important for us today because this message that Peter proclaimed, a perfect creation, sin, redemption in Christ and this intermediate and one day fully restored perfect world was in turn shared by the people who heard it on that day with people who shared it with their families, neighbours and friends. They in turn shared the message, and it has been shared, unchanged over the last 2000 years. The same message was shared with me in the church I attended as I was growing up, in youth groups, and on the campus of the university where I studied. In every case, friends shared that God made the world good; sin messed up the relationships between God; mankind and the restoration; God redeemed us to himself through the death and resurrection of God the Son, Jesus Christ; and the battle with sin has been won. Because of this gospel that was shared with me, I am now looking forward to a perfectly restored world when Jesus returns and we have eternal life in perfect relationship with God, mankind and the rest of creation.

Through the Holy Spirit, thousands of people heard and believed Peter when he spoke on that day, and billions since. The question you need to be sure of today is whether you believe this gospel that I have preached today. Have you repented and turned back to God? Have you had your sins wiped out? Are you just waiting for the time God restores everything? Peter tells us that all who don't will be completely cut off from his people, but if you believe, you will be blessed and turned from your wicked ways.

Do you believe this gospel and have this blessing?