

## Sunday 10 November 2024 HC 2.1 - Defence Sunday

### TIS 105 Let all the World

Let all the world in every corner sing, My God and King!  
The heavens are not too high, His praise may thither fly  
The earth is not too low, His praises there may grow  
Let all the world in every corner sing, My God and King

Let all the world in every corner sing, My God and King  
The church with psalms must shout, No door can keep them out  
But above all the heart, Must bear the longest part  
Let all the world in every corner sing, My God and King.

### 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

From the Lord comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people. Psalm 3:8

### 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

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of evil and make us children and heirs of eternal life: grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that when he comes again in power and great glory, we may be like Him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### 2 Samuel 15:10–14

<sup>10</sup> Then Absalom sent secret messengers throughout the tribes of Israel to say, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpets, then say, 'Absalom is king in Hebron.'" <sup>11</sup> Two hundred men from Jerusalem had accompanied Absalom. They had been invited as guests and went quite innocently, knowing nothing about the matter. <sup>12</sup> While Absalom was offering sacrifices, he also sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counsellor, to come from Giloh, his hometown. And so the conspiracy gained strength, and Absalom's following kept on increasing. <sup>13</sup> A messenger came and told David, "The hearts of the people of Israel are with Absalom." <sup>14</sup> Then David said to all his officials who were with him in Jerusalem, "Come! We must flee, or none of us will escape from Absalom. We must leave immediately, or he will move quickly to overtake us and bring ruin on us and put the city to the sword."

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

### Psalm 3

<sup>1</sup> LORD, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me!

<sup>2</sup> **Many are saying of me, "God will not deliver him."**

<sup>3</sup> But you, LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high.

**4 I call out to the LORD, and he answers me from his holy mountain.**

<sup>5</sup> I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me.

**6 I will not fear though tens of thousands assail me on every side.**

<sup>7</sup> Arise, LORD! Deliver me, my God! Strike all my enemies on the jaw; break the teeth of the wicked.

**8 From the LORD comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people.**

### Romans 12:14–21

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

### Luke 6:27–31

<sup>7</sup> "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.

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

### Sermon - Psalm 3

#### 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.**

## 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

The Spirit of truth comes to convict us of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement. Let us open our hearts and 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 599 Take My Life

**Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.**

**Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.**

**Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.**

**Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.**

**Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.**

**Take my silver and my gold, nothing, Lord, would I withhold.**

**Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.**

**Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.**

**Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.**

**Take my love: my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store.**

**Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

### **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, 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.

## 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 596 - Fill my whole life

**Fill my whole life, O Lord my God, in every part with praise,  
that my whole being may proclaim your being and your ways.**

**Not for the lip of praise alone, nor ev'n the praising heart I ask,  
but for a life made up of praise in every part.**

**Praise in the common things of life, its goings out and in;  
praise in each duty and each deed, however small and mean.**

**Fill every part of me with praise: let all my being speak  
of you and of your love, O Lord, poor though I be and weak.**

**So shalt you, Lord, receive from me the praise and glory due;  
and so shall I begin on earth the song for ever new.**

**So shall no part of day and night from sacredness be free;  
but with you, Lord, in every step, my fellowship will be.**

## Remembrance Day

Today is Remembrance Day, a day of national commemoration.

On this day at 11 am, Australians pause in silence for a minute to remember the bravery and sacrifice of the people who lost their lives while serving Australia and its allies in wars, conflicts and peace operations.

It is now time to reflect and to silently remember all those who have served and died in war.

Please stand for the Ode, which will be followed by The Last Post, one minute of silence and The Rouse.

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

**Lest we forget.**

## The Last Post

**Pause for one minute of silence.**

**The Rouse.**

## Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## Sermon - Psalm 3

War is a terrible scourge on our society, and it seems inevitable, and never ending. There has been no time in history in which major powers have not been in conflict, and even when nations are quiet, terrorist warfare gnawing away at society. Throughout history, states have tried to avoid conflicts by developing family ties between royal families through marriage. This happened all over the world. The Habsburgs of Austria developed it into a high art of territorial acquisition-via-inheritance. So much so that a motto came to be associated with their dynasty: "Let others wage war. You, happy Austria, marry!" I suspect any effort I might try to make to choose marriage partners for my daughters for my own benefit would not be so successful!

In any case, the idea that family relationships prevent conflicts escapes me. I am sure that parents know that conflicts between siblings, and even with other relatives within the family can often be even more fierce than other conflicts.

King David, who either wrote our psalm this morning, or about whom our psalm was written, certainly understood this.

You may have noticed the introduction to the Psalm: a psalm of David when he hid from Absalom. Since David was hiding and in fear for his life, we know going well for him. His son Absalom was trying to kill him to settle an old dispute, and to become king in his place.

Apparently what had happened was that another of David's sons, Amnon (a half brother to Absalom), had raped Absalom's sister. David was angry, but he didn't do anything because Amnon was his heir apparent. Absalom was infuriated by the rape and David's inaction, and assassinated Amnon and fled. Three years later he returned to Israel and rallied popular support against his father David's reign, forcing David to flee Jerusalem. As he was fleeing, 2 Samuel 15:30 tells us David was going up the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went; his head was covered and he was barefoot. All the people with him covered their heads too and were weeping as they went up. Also, during this, Absalom humiliates David by publicly raping ten of his concubines. A war ensues but their revolt ends in failure when Absalom is killed.

Do you ever have one of those days when the whole world seems to be against you? David probably felt it more than most, even from before he became king, the giant Goliath wanted him dead, and even Saul, the first king of Israel was out to kill him. And when he became king, he was constantly at war. If it wasn't the

nations around him, it was members of his own family, like Absalom, wanting to become king in his place through civil war.

In fact, David was so caught up in bloodshed and warfare that God would not allow him to build the temple. 1 Chronicles 22 says that had to wait for David's son Solomon, who was a man of peace.

This has all been an introduction to Psalm 3. As you read it, did you hear the distress in David's voice because of the conflict?

<sup>1</sup> LORD, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me!

For David, it wasn't just the people who he was at war with that distressed him. Others were questioning God's commitment to him: <sup>2</sup> Many are saying of me, "God will not deliver him."

David, of course, knew better. Despite the mocking of his, and God's enemies, he was able to say: <sup>3</sup> But you, LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high.

It probably didn't seem like God was shielding him, let alone David glory. David was hiding in fear of his life, and I'm sure he severely doubted that God would raise his head high. I suspect he felt it was much more likely that Absalom would raise his head, but that it wouldn't still be connected to his neck.

Nevertheless, David says:

<sup>4</sup> I call out to the LORD, and he answers me from his holy mountain.

<sup>5</sup> I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me.

<sup>6</sup> I will not fear though tens of thousands assail me on every side.

David maintained his faith in his lord and God. He had faith that God would answer him. David knew that the only reason that he was able to go to bed and get up again in the morning was because his lord sustained him. I suspect we also feel that way as we get older, but David felt it every day of his life as his enemies sought to attack him from every side. He never was quite sure what each day would bring. He certainly didn't know if he would have a bed to sleep in, and whether he would wake in the morning, or be assassinated in his sleep. Yet he was able to say that he would not fear.



The psalmist then comes to a tricky verse, put at least one that jars with us today: <sup>7</sup> Arise, LORD! Deliver me, my God! Strike all my enemies on the jaw; break the teeth of the wicked.

I hope this isn't a prayer any of us pray regularly, or even at all. How could David pray that God breaks his enemies' teeth? I know that God criticised David because of his violence, but really?

There are a couple of things I want to say about this verse. Firstly, note what David doesn't say. He doesn't ask God to help him to break his enemies teeth. He is leaving the judgement in God's hands.

Secondly, while broken teeth may sound harsh to us, David could have prayed for much harsher judgement. God had often destroyed entire peoples completely, and at least seen individuals meet untimely ends.

Also note that David's enemies' sin against God was their words, the words that were disparaging God's power and righteousness. By calling on God to break their jaws and their teeth, he was asking God to silence their blasphemous talk. While what he was asking was fairly graphic, it would have gone a long way towards silencing this evil talk.

This also highlights one of the things I like about the psalms- they are brutally, emotionally honest. The psalmist doesn't hold back on saying exactly what he thinks. He wants the evil talk silenced, and he doesn't stop at saying so, albeit very graphically.

However, if you think this verse is harsh - And what about Psalm 137? You have probably heard it, as it starts:

<sup>1</sup> By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.

<sup>2</sup> There on the poplars we hung our harps,

<sup>3</sup> for there our captors asked us for songs,our tormentors demanded songs of joy:

they said, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

<sup>4</sup> How can we sing the songs of the LORD while in a foreign land?

<sup>5</sup> If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill. Psalms 137:1-5

If you are as old as I am, you may remember a disco hit by a band called Boney M back in about 1978. The song was based on Psalm 137, and was even on Boney M's Christmas album. But the song didn't include the last two verses:

8 Daughter Babylon, doomed to destruction, happy is the one who repays you according to what you have done to us. <sup>9</sup> Happy is the one who seizes your infants and dashes them against the rocks. Psalms 137:8-9

The question is, how should we take these verses today. Should we pray for God to smash our enemies teeth, dash their infants against rock, or perhaps to destroy them completely. There are many of what are called 'deprecatory psalms' that are like this, calling on God to destroy his enemies.

In 1 John, we are called to pray for those who rebel against God - not for their destruction, but for life: <sup>16</sup> It says if we see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life. And Romans 12:20 "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

And our gospel reading today, Jesus himself tells us to love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also.

Turning the other cheek, and even metaphorically heaping burning coals on their heads is certainly different to breaking their teeth!

It is not that we don't worry about sin any more. Sin offends God and both Jews and Christians are called to reject sin which leads to God's judgement. However, it is important to remember, as Romans tells us, to leave room for God's wrath - He will avenge sin, but it is our role to seek to overcome evil with good, that in doing so we may win them over through God's love. We are to pray for our enemies, feed them when they are hungry, give them something to drink when they are thirsty, turn the other cheek when they slap us, give them our coat also when they demand our shirt, encourage our enemies into God's deliverance and eternal blessing. As the final line of psalm 3 says:

<sup>8</sup> From the LORD comes deliverance. May God's blessing be on your people.

Let us seek to bring this blessing, not be God's curse!