

**Cooma Anglican Sunday 9 February 2025 HC 2.1**

**TIS 231 At the name of Jesus**

**At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow,  
every tongue confess him, King of Glory now:  
this the Father's pleasure, that we call him Lord,  
who from the beginning was the mighty Word.**

**Humbled for a season to receive a name  
from the lips of sinners unto whom he came,  
faithfully he bore it, spotless to the last,  
brought it back victorious, when from death he passed.**

**In your hearts enthrone him, there let him make new  
all that is not holy, all that is not true.  
He is God the Saviour, he is Christ the Lord,  
ever to be worshipped, trusted and adored.**

**When this same Lord Jesus shall appear again,  
in his Father's glory, there with him to reign,  
then may we adore him, all before him bow,  
as our hearts confess him, King of Glory now.**

**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**

As for other matters, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. 2 Thes 3:1

**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**

Faithful God, you have appointed us as your witnesses to be a light that shines in the world: let us not hide the bright light you have given us, but tell everyone your love revealed in

Jesus Christ the Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### Deuteronomy 30:11-16

<sup>11</sup> Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach.

<sup>12</sup> It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, “Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?” <sup>13</sup> Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, “Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?” <sup>14</sup> No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

<sup>15</sup> See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. <sup>16</sup> For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

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

### Psalms 36

<sup>1</sup> I have a message from God in my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: There is no fear of God before their eyes.

<sup>2</sup> **In their own eyes they flatter themselves too much to detect or hate their sin.**

<sup>3</sup> The words of their mouths are wicked and deceitful; they fail to act wisely or do good.

<sup>4</sup> **Even on their beds they plot evil; they commit themselves to a sinful course and do not reject what is wrong.**

<sup>5</sup> Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.

<sup>6</sup> **Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the great deep. You, LORD, preserve both people and animals.**

<sup>7</sup> How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

<sup>8</sup> **They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights.**

<sup>9</sup> For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

<sup>10</sup> **Continue your love to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart.**

<sup>11</sup> May the foot of the proud not come against me, nor the hand of the wicked drive me away.

<sup>12</sup> **See how the evildoers lie fallen—thrown down, not able to rise!**

### 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

<sup>1</sup> As for other matters, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. <sup>2</sup> And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people, for not everyone has faith. <sup>3</sup> But the Lord is faithful, and he

will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one. <sup>4</sup> We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. <sup>5</sup> May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

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

### **Mark 13:5-13**

5 Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. 6 Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many. 7 When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 8 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.

9 "You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. 10 And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. 11 Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

12 "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. 13 Everyone will hate you because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

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

### **Sermon - Paul's Prayer**

#### **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 518 - For the bread and for the wine**

**For the bread and for the wine, For the pledge that seals Him mine,  
For the words of love divine, We give Thee thanks, O Lord.**

**For the feast of love and peace, bidding all our sorrows cease,  
foretaste of the kingdom's bliss, we give you thanks, O Lord**

**This the bread and this the wine, Yet to faith, the solemn sign  
Of the heavenly and divine! We give Thee thanks, O Lord.**

**Till He comes we take the bread, Type of Him on whom we feed,**

**Him who lives and once was dead! We give Thee thanks, O Lord.**

**Till He come we take the cup; As we at His table sup,  
Eye and heart are lifted up! We give Thee thanks, O Lord.**

**For that coming, here foreshown, For that day to man unknown,  
For the glory and the throne, We give Thee thanks, O Lord.**

### **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 O Lord my God**

**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.**

### **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 - 2 Thess 3:1-5 - Paul's Prayer**

Often when I lead church services, I ask people for prayer points. I ask the congregation what they would like me to pray for in the intercessions. I do this so I can pray for the things that are on your hearts, not just for the things I think I should pray about for you.

In today's reading from 2 Thessalonians, Paul shares with us his prayer points. He asks us to pray

'That the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honoured, just as it was with the Thessalonians.'

You may recall that Paul wrote this letter within about 15 to 20 years after Jesus was crucified, and it was critical for the growth of the early church that his gospel spread quickly and be honoured. Paul's missionary journeys played a big part in the early growth, but Paul's commitment to the spread of the gospel make it no surprise that he asks for prayer that the gospel spread rapidly.

Of course, for Paul, gospel spreading is not an end in itself. The spread of the good news of Jesus death and resurrection for our sins is an act of worshipping God - it proclaims the justice, righteousness and power of God by proclaiming what he has done for us. The more immediate benefit to us is that people believe and put their trust in Jesus's blood for their salvation, which is the ultimate worship of God.

As Paul says in Romans 10.13 and 14: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."but 14 "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" Have no doubt, people need to hear the gospel to put their faith in God and be saved.

And this is why Paul asks the Thessalonians (and us) to pray that the gospel, the message of the Lord, spreads rapidly, so that those who hear it can call on the name of Jesus and be saved.

That is also why I ask you to pray for the rapid spread of the gospel in Cooma and the wider Monaro. I ask you to pray this, no matter who is proclaiming it, that people around us, our families, our friends and our neighbours, may believe, may call on the name of Jesus and be saved. Will you pray for this with me?

Paul also asks the Thessalonians, and us, that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people, 'for not everyone has faith.' By including the phrase 'for not everyone has faith' suggests that he is talking about people in the church - after all, we only expect people in the church to have faith, so by saying that not all do suggests he is talking about people who claim to be members of the church, but really aren't. Paul says that such non-believers in the church are a real danger because they don't preach the true gospel themselves, and worse, they hinder those who are trying to preach the gospel by finding ways to distract them. They actively seek to prevent Christians proclaiming the gospel by ridiculing them, and they also distract people from the truth by endless arguments about trivialities

Even though the wicked and evil people Paul is referring to are in the church, the people around us in our churches may not seem that wicked and evil. I must say that as I look over you this morning that I can't detect a hint of evil or wickedness - although if I am missing something, please feel free to bring it to my attention later! But nevertheless the devil is undoubtedly wandering around and among us trying to prevent us truly worshiping God. In this context, that means preventing the gospel being proclaimed. Anything that prevents the gospel being proclaimed, either by enticing us to worship something else, or simply by distracting us from preaching with the worries of this world, is ultimately evil and wicked.

It is no surprise that Paul wants to be delivered from these evil and wicked people. These people, in preventing the gospel being preached, are in effect stealing salvation from those who would gain it trusting in the gospel Paul, his companions and Christians today preach. It may seem that arguing technicalities or trying to ensure absolute precision in how the gospel is described is important, but it is nowhere near as important as the eternal life



that the gospel brings. Professional theologians can argue details between themselves, but what we need is a simple faith in the simple, but reliable gospel. We need to put our faith, not in our own works or efforts, but in Jesus' death and resurrection for us which is the simple message of the gospel.

That is why Paul asks us to pray that preachers be delivered from evil and wicked people who would hold the gospel back. He asks this with confidence because he knows that, as verses 3 and 4 say, that the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen us and protect us from the evil one, the one who is really behind the evil and wicked people who are hindering the gospel.

Paul has confidence in the Lord that we are doing and will continue to do the things he commands, and he prays, as I do, that the Lord may direct our hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

Now, when we have our intercessions this morning, I will ask you your prayer points, for the things on your hearts that you would like us to pray for as we pray for the church and the world, but right now, will you join me in Paul's prayer, please join me with an Amen when I finish praying Paul's words:

Please pray with me:

Brothers and sisters, we pray that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was amongst us. We pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people, for not everyone has faith. You Lord are faithful, and we pray that you will strengthen us and protect us from the evil one. We praise you that we have confidence in the Lord that we are doing and will continue to do the things your word through Paul commands, and in all things, May the Lord direct our hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

And the people said:

Amen!