

## Cooma Anglican 9 March 2025 HC 2.1 1st Sunday in Lent

### Hymn TIS 201 King of Glory, King of Peace

King of glory, King of peace, I will love thee;  
and, that love may never cease, I will move thee  
Thou hast granted my request, thou hast heard me;  
thou didst note my working breast, thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art I will sing thee,  
and the cream of all my heart I will bring thee.  
Though my sins against me cried, thou didst clear me;  
and alone, when they replied, thou didst hear me.

Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee;  
in my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee.  
Small it is, in this poor sort to enrol thee:  
ev'n eternity's too short to extol thee.

### The Grace

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.**

### Sentence of the Day

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Genesis 2:18

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 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

Almighty God, whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, but did not sin: give us grace to direct our lives in obedience to your will, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### Genesis 2:15–25

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup> 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." <sup>18</sup> The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." <sup>19</sup> Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and

whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. <sup>21</sup> So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man. " <sup>24</sup> That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

For the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm 65:5-13**

<sup>5</sup> You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas,

<sup>6</sup> **who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength,**

<sup>7</sup> who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations.

<sup>8</sup> **The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy.**

<sup>9</sup> You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it.

<sup>10</sup> **You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops.**

<sup>11</sup> You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.

<sup>12</sup> **The grasslands of the wilderness overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness.**

<sup>13</sup> **The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.**

### **Ephesians 5:25-33**

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— 30 for we are members of his body. 31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." 32 This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

For the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

### **Matthew 5:43-48**

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

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

## **Sermon - Genesis 2 - Why are we here?**

### **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**

We are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. 1 John 3:2-3

### **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**

Knowing the goodness of God and our failure to respond with love and obedience, let us confess our sins, saying together

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

**As pants the hart for cooling streams in parched and barren ways,  
so longs my soul for you, O God, and your refreshing grace.**

**For you my God, the living God, my thirsting soul will pine:  
O when shall I behold your face, your majesty divine?**

**God of my strength, my tears have been by day and night my food;  
the mockers taunt continually and say: 'Where is your God?'**

**Why restless, why cast down, my soul? Hope still, and you shall sing  
the praise of him who is your God, your health's eternal spring.**

### 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**

Draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in your hearts with thanksgiving.

### **After Communion**

Gracious God, thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love, and that we are living members of Christ's body.

**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 3147-May the mind of Christ my Saviour**

**May the mind of Christ my Saviour,  
Live in me from day to day,  
By His love and power controlling  
All I do and say.**

**May the Word of God dwell richly  
In my heart from hour to hour,  
So that all may see I triumph  
Only through His power.**

**May the peace of God my Father  
Rule my life in everything,  
That I may be calm to comfort  
Sick and sorrowing.**

**May the love of Jesus fill me,  
As the waters fill the sea;  
Him exalting, self abasing,  
This is victory.**

**May I run the race before me,  
Strong and brave to face the foe,  
Looking only unto Jesus  
As I onward go.**

### **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 - Genesis 2 - Why are we here?**

### **Introduction**

Why are you here? Atheists says chance.

The Bible (such as Acts 17.27: God put us here for a purpose, that we should inhabit the whole earth; so that we would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us). Genesis 2, today's reading, tells us more about it

Last week, Gen 1 said we are part of God's creation. This is absolutely true, but humans are more, we are made in the image of God. This introduces an important theme in theology, that of diversity in unity. For example, humans have a unity with the rest of created order, but we are also different. The key principle of the Trinity is that there is unity and diversity within God - unity of father, son and holy spirit as God, but diversity as each person of the trinity is distinct. Time and again we see this diversity in unity principle in the Bible - we are all one in Christ, we all have a unity as Christians and so there is no Jew, no Greek, no male, no female - but there are, there is real diversity, we are all different, and some differences are very important.

### **Mankind and creation**

Noting our unity and diversity with creation, why did God put us here on this earth? Verse 5 says that at least part of the reason is to work, and in particular to work the ground, because there was no one else to do that before God put man here. The word for work is the same word that is used of God creating the universe - back in verse 2, God rested from his work of creation, the same word used here of mankind working the land. It is very important to note that God did not only put us here to work the earth, but verse 15 says we are also to look after it, to take care of it. The word is probably closer to protect the land, the same word he uses about the angels with a flaming sword who protected the garden of Eden from Adam and Eve returning after they had been cast out. Despite Christians being accused of wantonly contributing to the destruction of the environment in the name of working the land, the Bible is clear that we supposed to care for it, to protect it. Perhaps we do damage the environment, but we shouldn't!

God also gave mankind the responsibility of naming all the living creatures. This is part and parcel of mankind's dominion over all living creatures: we get to choose their names and we have responsibility for protecting them.

### **Freedoms v16**

Along with these responsibilities, caring, protecting and naming creation, God gave Adam and Eve certain freedoms . We could eat from any fruit in the garden, except for one. When you consider the enormous number of things we can do, the thousands of choices we can make at any moment, God has given us an incredible amount of freedom. We'll get to boundaries in a moment, but God gives us freedom to largely live the way we want to live, albeit within the relatively few boundaries he has established. We do have the imperative to be wise, however, because the consequences of foolish actions can be quite severe, even if the actions themselves are not of themselves wrong.

## **Boundaries v17**

As I mentioned with this freedom, there are also boundaries, Adam and Eve could eat from any tree except one. This model, freedom with boundaries Is the model for God's rule of this world. We shouldn't expect to be told everything we are supposed to do, any more than to think God has a detailed step by step plan for every moment of our lives. No, we have freedom within boundaries. It's important, and we'll come back to this in a moment with a specific example.

## **Humankind's relationship with humankind**

When we get to verse 18, Adam, as the first human being, is all alone on earth. God sees that it is not good for a human being to be alone, and he brings all the living creatures to Adam to name. God did not expect that any animal would be a suitable companion for him, but he probably wanted Adam to see that for himself.

God knows that there has to be unity and diversity in human relationships. True relationships must involve two humans, because as much as my dog and I have a good relationship, it is fundamentally different from my relationship with Cath, my wife. But there is also diversity within my relationship with Cath, I am male and she is female, and this is the ideal that God has planned. Life long, committed relationships between Christians should include unity and diversity, as there was between Adam and Eve. As we read, God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, This demonstrated their unity, 23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." The demonstrated diversity, because not only are they male and female, they leave different families of origin to be united to each other, which Genesis describes as one flesh. They cannot be united if they did not have diversity in the first place and this is the way God has planned it.

## **Marriage v24,25, Eph5**

This brings us to the subject of marriage, and the example of freedom within boundaries in marriage.

I know that many single people bemoan what they see as the rigid boundaries that Christian's seem to place on marriage. Many young Christians don't see why they should only marry another Christian. But, according to the Bible, if you are not married you can marry absolutely any one you like - provided they are of the opposite sex, they're not married, not a close blood relative, and if you are a Christian, they are a Christian as well. By my calculations, that gives single Christian men about 450 million girls to choose from, and single Christian women roughly the same number of men. That seems a pretty big choice. Now, some of those won't be of marriageable age, some live so far away that you'll never meet them and some won't be psychologically compatible with you, but it seems that God gives you a huge amount of freedom in that particular area. That's why wisdom comes into play: you should marry someone who helps you lead the most God honouring life, and you can help to do likewise, so actually caring about each other, even loving each other is a good idea, but even more importantly, how you are married: that you continually



work at these things, seeking to make your spouse holy, washing them in God's word, as your marriage vows say, in sickness and in health, for richer, for poorer and so on. That's the most important thing for marriage!

### **No shame v25**

This brings us to the last phrase in our passage: Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. This is another example of freedom within boundaries: there is nothing wrong with the human body, but it should only be fully displayed within the proper context, that is, within the marriage relationship. Properly exercised, with love and gentleness, the sexual relationship within marriage is a good thing. However, pornography is outside the boundary that God has set, and is never appropriate for the Christian.

### **Application: The value of work and human relationships**

God put mankind on earth to work, including to work at looking after his creation. There are freedoms and boundaries in our work, but ultimately work is good. I understand many of you have retired from a lifetime of paid work, but there is still work to be done: caring for families, friends and neighbours, and so on. Work has value, and so does the weekly rest that God commanded. I know most of you do work, and it is important to remember the value of work. It is why we are here.

Secondly, we need to remember the God ordained importance of human relationships, and particularly the marriage relationship. God said it is not good for humans to be alone, and this includes men and women. Humans are social creatures, although circumstances sometimes mean that some people aren't in marriage relationships, because they never got married, or their marriage ended through divorce or because one partner died. Churches like ours have a particular responsibility to these people, because we see the church, all of us, as Jesus's bride, as our Ephesians reading told us. Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her on the cross, and we need to be like minded to those around us.. And we even need to care for those outside the church, our gospel tells us to love our enemies.

### **Conclusion**

God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, made mankind, men and women, in their own image to look after this wonderful creation he has made, and for relationship with each other and him. We have lost so much of the beauty of creation and the joy in our relationships with each other and God through sin in the fall, which we will talk about next week.

Even so, as Christians who know the goodness of God, we need to do our bit to care for creation and for each other. We need to show our love for God, his creation and each other he showed for us by dying on the cross.

Is this the love you are trying to show?