

Cooma Anglican 6 April 2025 - 1st Order APBA

Welcome

Hymn TIS 143 - Immortal, invisible

VERSE 1

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.**

**Unresting, Unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, but ruling in might;
Your justice like mountains high soaring above
your clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**You give life to all Lord, to both great and small,
in all life now living, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on a tree,
and wither and perish, but ever unchanged you will be.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
of all your rich graces this grace Lord impart
take the veil from our faces, the veil from our heart.**

**All praise we would render reveal to our sight;
what hides you is only the splendour of light
and so let your glory, Almighty, impart
through Christ is the story, your Christ to the heart**

Greeting

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Sentence of the Day

**When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image;
and he named him Seth. Genesis 5:3**

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

We thank you, Heavenly Father, that you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: we pray that as by his death he recalled us to life, so by his presence abiding in us he may raise us to joys eternal, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns over our world in unity with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

The Ministry of the Word

Genesis 5:1-5, 21-32

¹ This is the written account of Adam's family line. When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God. ² He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them "Mankind" when they were created. ³ When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth. ⁴ After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. ⁵ Altogether, Adam lived a total of 930 years, and then he died.

²¹ When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. ²² After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. ²³ Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. ²⁴ Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away. ²⁵ When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he became the father of Lamech. ²⁶ After he became the father of Lamech, Methuselah lived 782 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁷ Altogether, Methuselah lived a total of 969 years, and then he died. ²⁸ When Lamech had lived 182 years, he had a son. ²⁹ He named him Noah and said, "He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the LORD has cursed. " ³⁰ After Noah was born, Lamech lived 595 years and had other sons and daughters. ³¹ Altogether, Lamech lived a total of 777 years, and then he died. ³² After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth.

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

Psalms 116:12-19

¹² What shall I return to the LORD for all his goodness to me?

¹³ **I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.**

¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful servants.

¹⁶ Truly I am your servant, LORD; I serve you just as my mother did; you have freed me from my chains.

¹⁷ I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the LORD.

¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,

¹⁹ in the courts of the house of the LORD—in your midst, Jerusalem.

Praise the LORD.

Hebrews 11:4-7

⁴ By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead. ⁵ By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: “He could not be found, because God had taken him away.” For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. ⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. ⁷ By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

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

Matthew 12:46-50

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

46 While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. 47 Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.”

48 He replied to him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” 49 Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. 50 For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

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

Sermon Genesis 5 - God's Chosen Line

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.

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 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 599 Take my life, and let it be

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.

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.

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 687 God gives us a future

**God gives us a future, daring us to go
Into dreams and dangers on a path unknown
We will face tomorrow with the Spirit's power
We will let God change us for new life starts now.**

**We must leave behind us sins of yesterday
For God's new beginning is a better way
Fear and doubt and habit must not hold us back
God gives hope and insight and the strength we lack.**

**Holy Spirit teach us how to read the signs
How to meet the challenge of our troubled times
Love us into action stir us into prayer
Till we choose God's life and find our future there**

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 - Genesis 5 - God's Chosen Line

Who has researched their genealogy, their ancestors? Companies are making big money by getting people's DNA to find out where their ancestors have come from, and the internet contains a wealth of information that allows you to research who you are related to.

Of those who researched their ancestors, who found surprises that you didn't expect? Who have convicts in their ancestry? How about royalty or nobility? My father did a lot of research into our family's ancestors, Mainly through his mother's side. Even though he was able to trace back to early settlers in Australia, he never did find any convicts. All my ancestors were free settlers. He did however find a couple of bigamists, but I think that was the worst he found. On the other hand, sure a while ago, someone in my mother's family did a lot of research on her family until they suddenly stopped and put it all away. Apparently they found out that they had ancestors from a large country south of France, and this was just too embarrassing.

The second half of Genesis 4, and all of Genesis 5 record genealogies of two of Adam's and Eve's sons, Cain and Seth.

Chapter 4 tells us that Cain's line was Enoch, Mehujael, Methushael, and Methushael, Lamech. 19 Lamech and his sons Jabal; Jubal; and Tubal-Cain, and daughter Naamah. Chapter 5 tells us Adam's 3rd son, Seth, born after Cain had killed Abel, was the ancestor of Enosh, Kenan, Mahalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, another Lamech and Noah.

In both cases, Genesis only tells us about a particular son, presumably the eldest, in each generation, except in a couple of cases where it mentions other brothers and sisters. It also says that there were other sons and daughters in each generation, so the names we read are not the entire population of the earth by any means.

You probably also noticed the usual pattern in Genesis 5. For each generation it says that a man lived a number of years, had a son, lived many more years, having other sons and daughters, and then he died. The constant reminder that each dies is probably to emphasise that sin and death entered the world with Adam's sin, and all his descendants were condemned to suffer it.

However, did you notice the one exception to this pattern? Seth's great, great, great grandson, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. 23 Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. 24 Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away. Throughout all of recorded history since Adam, only two people did not die: Enoch, who we also read about in our New Testament reading, and the prophet Elijah. For Enoch, we are told that he walked faithfully with God - that is, he did not sin, and therefore did not have to suffer death, the punishment for sin.

While this goodness reaches its pinnacle in Enoch, Genesis is emphasising that Seth's line as recorded, seems to have a close relationship with God. This is particularly highlighted in 4:26, which tells us that at the time of Seth's son Enosh, people (presumably Seth's descendants) started calling on the name of the Lord. This is expected to be contrasted with chapter 4, verse 17, which says Cain was then building a city, and he named it after his son Enosh. Explicitly, Cain's line was highlighting their own name by making a city after themselves, calling it Enosh, while Seth's line is calling on the name of the Lord. Cain's line is raising their own name, while Seth's is raising God's.

The point is that this putting their own name before God's is a judgement of the entire line, not just Enosh and Seth. This idea is introduced in the first few verses of chapter 5 where it says that Adam

had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth. Children often share the characteristics of their parents.

The old adage: like father, like son certainly seems to apply here: Cain, the murderer's son passes down the family characteristics to his line, all the way to Lamech, who was also a murderer. On the other line, from Enosh, Seth's son, people came to call on the name of the Lord, to Enoch who walked faithfully with God, to Lamech, who, when his son, Noah was born, proclaimed: "Out of the ground that the LORD has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands."

God had been preserving a line, a people faithful to him, a line that he would continue to build, not just be saving Noah and his family through the flood as *Genesis 6* shows us, but continuing through Noah's son Shem, to Shem to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and his 12 sons, to King David, to Joseph and Mary, the parents of Jesus.

This was always God's plan, that people would walk faithfully with him and proclaim his name. Throughout the Old Testament, this was often through family lines, although not exclusively. In the New Testament, and even today genealogy, was very important. If your parents are Jewish, you are considered Jewish, even if you never go anywhere near a synagogue or never mention God's name. This was important to them, but John the Baptist didn't seem to think so when he was calling them to repentance. He tells them quite bluntly: Do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. Even Jesus didn't think being his own blood relatives - his Mother, brother or sister was anything compared with obeying the will of God.

God's plan is still to have a people who proclaim his name. His plan is still that those people be related to him by blood, but not just by genealogical lines, but by the blood of his son. While many lines fell outside the line of God's people that I mentioned earlier went through Noah and Shem to Abraham, lines such as those from Ham (Shem's brother), Ishmael (Isaac's half brother), and even Esau (Jacob's brother), and even our own ancestry, fall outside the line of God's salvation, we are still able to be grafted into this line through Jesus's death on the cross on our behalf. In effect, we can be the stones that John the Baptist says that God can turn into sons of Abraham. We have heard today of one line of people flowing from Adam through to Jesus, and since Jesus did not marry and never had children, so you might think stopped there. But through his blood, that is not the case. Jesus tells us in Luke that those who are considered worthy of taking part in the age to come and in the resurrection from the dead can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection. Luke 20:35-36

Similarly Hebrews tells us: ¹⁰ In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. ¹¹ Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.

We are in fact, sons and daughters of Adam and Eve, and brothers and sisters of Jesus as well as children of God through Jesus's death in your place. You may be descended from royalty, or from convicts, or even directly descended from Abraham, or Ham. These are not insignificant as families are always important, but only being a child of God, a brother or sister of Christ through his blood gives eternal life.

Do you have that eternal life?