

Sunday 11 May 2025 Mother's Day 9.30am Cooma

Hymn TIS 121 God Himself is present:

God Himself is present: Let us now adore Him, As with awe come before Him.

God is in our midst now; In our hearts keep silence; worshipping in deepest reverence.

Him we know, Him we name

Come and let us make him Our renewed surrender.

O majestic Being, I would praise you duly and my service render to you

In the selfsame spirit as the holy angels, ever standing in your presence.

Grant me now, So to strive

evermore to please you dearest God, in all things.

Let your glorious light, Lord, permeating all things, reach my face and eyes to touch them;

as the tender flowers open out their petals, to the sun their hearts unfolding,

so may I, calm in joy,

hold your rays from heaven, power within me working.

Lord, make me your dwelling, let my heart and spirit, be for you an earthly temple:

come, Immediate Being, my whole life illumine, so I'll always praise and love you,

so where'er I may be

there I may perceive you, ever bow before you.

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.

'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

What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

John 2:11

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

Bountiful God, whose Son revealed his glory at Cana in Galilee; help us recognise his glory, believe and obey, so that, as our Saviour promised, we may be filled with the wine of new life and show forth his joy and love; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever **Amen**.

Proverbs 23:22-25

22 Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.
23 Buy the truth and do not sell it— wisdom, instruction and insight as well. 24 The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him. 25 May your father and mother rejoice; may she who gave you birth be joyful!

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

Psalms 104:1-15

¹ Praise the LORD, my soul. LORD my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendor and majesty.

² **The LORD wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent**

³ and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters. He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind.

⁴ **He makes winds his messengers, flames of fire his servants.**

⁵ He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved.

⁶ **You covered it with the watery depths as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.**

⁷ But at your rebuke the waters fled, at the sound of your thunder they took to flight;

⁸ **they flowed over the mountains, they went down into the valleys, to the place you assigned for them.**

⁹ You set a boundary they cannot cross; never again will they cover the earth.

¹⁰ **He makes springs pour water into the ravines; it flows between the mountains.**

¹¹ They give water to all the beasts of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

¹² **The birds of the sky nest by the waters; they sing among the branches.**

¹³ He waters the mountains from his upper chambers; the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work.

¹⁴ **He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate— bringing forth food from the earth:**

¹⁵ **wine that gladdens human hearts, oil to make their faces shine, and bread that sustains their hearts.**

Galatians 4:21-31

²¹ Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? ²²

For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. ²³ His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise.

²⁴ These things are being taken figuratively: The women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. ²⁵ Now

Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶ But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. ²⁷ For it is written: "Be glad, barren woman, you who never bore a child; shout for joy and cry aloud, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband."

²⁸ Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹ At that time the son born according to the flesh persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. ³⁰ But what does Scripture say? "Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman's son." ³¹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

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

John 2:1-25

¹ On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." ⁴ "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. ⁸ Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, ⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰ and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." ¹¹ What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. ¹² After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." ²⁰ They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken. ²³ Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. ²⁴ But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. ²⁵ He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person. This is the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Sermon - The Wedding at Cana

The Apostle's 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.

Intercessions

Response: Lord 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.

Sentence of Scripture

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.

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.

Statement of Forgiveness

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 455 - For All the Saints

**For all the saints who from their labours rest
Who to the world their Lord by faith confessed
Your name O Jesus Be forever blest
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

**You were their Rock Their Fortress and their Might
You were their Captain In the well fought fight
In deepest darkness Still their one true Light
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

**So may your servants Faithful true and bold
Fight as the saints Who nobly fought of old
And win with them The victor's crown of gold
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

**O blest communion Fellowship divine
We feebly struggle They in glory shine
All yours, all joined in unity divine
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

**And when the strife is fierce The warfare long
Steals on the ear The distant triumph song
And hearts are brave again And arms are strong
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

**The golden evening Brightens in the west
Soon soon to faithful Warriors comes their rest
the peaceful calm Of paradise the blest
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

**But see there breaks A yet more glorious day
The saints triumphant Rise in bright array
The King of Glory Passes on His way
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

**From earth's wide bounds From ocean's farthest shore
Through heaven's gates the holy people pour**

**The three-in-one forever they adore
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

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, and 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.

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.

Notices

Hymn - TIS 631 - Father, Lord of all creation,

**Father, Lord of all creation, ground of being, life and love;
height and depth beyond description only life in you can prove:
you are mortal life's dependence: thought, speech, sight are ours by grace;
yours is every hour's existence, sovereign Lord of time and space.**

**Jesus Christ, the Man for Others, we, your people, make our prayer:
let us love as sisters, brothers, all whose burdens, we can share.
Where your name binds us together you, Lord Christ, will surely be;
where no selfishness can sever, there your love we all may see.**

**Holy Spirit, rushing, burning, wind and flame of Pentecost,
fill our hearts afresh with yearning to regain what we have lost.
May your love unite our action, nevermore to speak alone:
God, in us abolish faction, and through us your love make known.**

A 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.**

Introduction - Mother's Day

Today, the second Sunday in May is known as Mother's Day. Mother's Day stems back to Miss Anna Jarvis, who was deeply inspired by her own Christian mother. In 1908 she organised a memorial service on the anniversary of her mother's death, at their church in Grafton, West Virginia. This was arranged not only to honour her mother, but all mothers. Following its success, she resolved to make it a national event, and drove a successful campaign to promote it. It became so popular that in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson officially declared the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day in the US, and is now celebrated around the world.

However, many of you may recall a different tradition known as Mothering Sunday, which falls on the fourth, or middle Sunday in Lent. We read the traditional reading for this Sunday (Galatians 4.21-31) as our New Testament reading today, and because of verse 26 "But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother", the day was historically associated with mothers. The tradition grew that people would go back to the family home that day. It was usual for apprentices and domestic servants to have the day off to visit their mothers, and married sons and daughters would take their own children. Families would be re-united, and together visit their home or "mother" church - the church where they were baptised, and have a meal with their mother. This was known as "going a-mothering", and hence the day came to be colloquially called Mothering Sunday. Perhaps it is a tradition you could re-establish in your families?

Quite coincidentally, the Bible passage I am speaking on this morning, John chapter 2, includes an interaction between Jesus and his mother Mary. Before I start to look at this passage, it is important to recognise that relationships between children and their parents (and particularly their mothers) have always been important in the Christian Church. Our Old Testament reading from Proverbs emphasises this "25 May your father and mother rejoice; may she who gave you birth be joyful!"

Yet, as I read the gospel this morning, with our modern ears, it may have seemed that Jesus was quite disrespectful, or even rude to his mother. After Jesus' mother tells him They have no more wine at the wedding feast, Jesus replied **"Woman, why do you involve me? My hour has not yet come."**

Firstly you need to realise that addressing his mother "Woman" which sounds awfully rude to me, and would probably get me a clip over the ear if I tried it

with my mother, was not rude or disrespectful in Jesus's culture. It was how you addressed your mother in public. Also, saying "why do you involve me?" effectively, "this isn't my problem" probably was a bit rude - the other five times the phrase had been used in the New Testament it was from a demon talking to Jesus!

Nevertheless, Mary expected Jesus to do something about the lack of wine, and he quite bluntly declined. I don't know what she expected - perhaps she thought he would duck down to the local bottle-o for a case of their finest red, but he didn't, and that was also something that would also get me a clip over the ear if I had refused like that. At the very least, Jesus is saying that as important as his mother is to him, his mission, his responsibility to God the Father, his heavenly father, was even more important. Whatever he would do would not just be because his mother had told him to, but because it was part of his heavenly mission, and according to the plan of his heavenly father.

And so, despite saying "**My hour has not yet come.**" Jesus went ahead and did a miracle - he changed water into 7 or 800 gallons of wine.

So what is going on? About four other times in John's gospel we are told Jesus's hour has not yet come, and every time it is referring to his crucifixion. That wasn't to happen for another 3 years or so - but what did it have to do with turning water into wine?

A clue is that Jesus didn't use any old container to hold the water that turned into wine - you would have expected him to use wine skins which were the normal thing to hold wine, and I suspect there would have been a few empty ones lying around. Instead, Jesus uses 6 huge ceremonial stone jars that hold water for ceremonial purification, and turns that water into wine.

Combining these points: that Jesus' hour was the hour of his death and purification, what Jesus is doing here is saying, "No, the ultimate purification, the climactic hour of my death is not yet here, but I will give you a sign." Jesus gives an acted out parable of his death and what it will mean.

BY turning water into wine, Jesus shows there is no ritual any more for cleansing. Jesus alone, once and for all, made purification for sins through his blood on the cross. You don't turn to ritual. You turn to Jesus.

This is also the message of the next part of the chapter, when Jesus clears the temple courts of the money changers and animal sellers. To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! **Stop turning my Father's house into a market!**" There is no doubt that having the correct money and suitable animals for sacrifices was a great benefit for those coming to the temple for their religious rituals, but Jesus knew he was superseding those rituals, and hated anything that showed any value of the old rituals in the mind of the worshippers. The fact that the money changers and sellers were motivated by greed did not help either.

When asked to justify his actions, he says that his body is the real temple - it will be razed to the ground and rebuilt in three days, and any temple ritual in fact only stands between people and the ultimate purification that only he offers through his body and blood. People cannot buy their purification, even with temple currency and ceremonially clean sacrificial offerings.

Conclusion

Today I started talking about our mothers, and let me say that nothing I have said today reduced our obligations to our mothers - those that carried us for 9 months or so, and cared for us, they brought us up, taught us so much. The relationships are never perfect, but we still owe them a huge debt, and should seek to maintain or restore those relationships wherever possible, as I am sure our mothers seek to with us. I also know that some of us have mothers who had faith in Jesus, and many have mothers who are with Jesus now. Some mothers don't have faith in Jesus, but their agendas are not our agendas, as Jesus's plan did not align with Mary's plan in our gospel this morning. What Jesus did at the wedding in Cana of Galilee was the **first of the signs through which he revealed his glory**; and his disciples believed in him.

Do you believe that Jesus's blood perfectly cleans us of all our sins to bring us back into perfect relationship with God in heaven for eternal life - without any temple rituals or sacrifices? Have you put your belief in him?

Amen