

**Sunday 15 June 2025 HC 3**

**Hymn: TIS 439 What shall we offer our good Lord**

What shall we offer our good Lord,  
poor nothings, for his boundless grace?  
Fain would we his great name record  
and worthily set forth his praise.

Great object of our growing love,  
to whom our more than all we owe,  
open the fountain from above,  
and let it our full souls o'erflow.

So shall our lives thy power proclaim,  
thy grace for every sinner free,  
till all the world shall learn thy name,  
shall all stretch out their hands to thee.

Open a door which earth and hell  
may strive to shut, but strive in vain;  
let thy word richly in us dwell,  
and let our gracious fruit remain.

O multiply the sower's seed!  
and fruit we every hour shall bear,  
throughout the world thy gospel spread,  
thy everlasting truth declare.

**Sentence of Scripture**

"Unless you people see signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe."

John 4:48

**The Great Commandments**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: 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.' 'This is the great and first commandment.

And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**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**

Father, we praise you, that through your Word and Holy Spirit you created all things; you reveal your salvation in the world through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh; through your Holy Spirit you give us a share in your life and love: fill us with the vision of your glory, that we may always serve and praise you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

### **1 Kings 17:17-24 (NIV)**

<sup>17</sup> Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing. <sup>18</sup> She said to Elijah, "What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?"

<sup>19</sup> "Give me your son," Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. <sup>20</sup> Then he cried out to the LORD, "LORD my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?" <sup>21</sup> Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the LORD, "LORD my God, let this boy's life return to him!"

<sup>22</sup> The LORD heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived. <sup>23</sup> Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, "Look, your son is alive!"

<sup>24</sup> Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth."

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

### **Psalms 103:1-12 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

<sup>2</sup> **Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—**

<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

<sup>4</sup> **who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,**

<sup>5</sup> who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

<sup>6</sup> **The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.**

<sup>7</sup> He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.**

<sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;

<sup>10</sup> **he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;

<sup>12</sup> **as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

### **James 5:13-20 (NIV)**

<sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And the prayer offered in faith

will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you

may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.<sup>17</sup> Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.<sup>18</sup> Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.<sup>19</sup> My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back,<sup>20</sup> remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

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

### **John 4:43-54 (NIV)**

#### **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

<sup>43</sup> After the two days he left for Galilee. <sup>44</sup> (Now Jesus himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honor in his own country.) <sup>45</sup> When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, for they also had been there. <sup>46</sup> Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. <sup>47</sup> When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death. <sup>48</sup> “Unless you people see signs and wonders,” Jesus told him, “you will never believe.” <sup>49</sup> The royal official said, “Sir, come down before my child dies.” <sup>50</sup> “Go,” Jesus replied, “your son will live.” The man took Jesus at his word and departed. <sup>51</sup> While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. <sup>52</sup> When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, “Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him.” <sup>53</sup> Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” So he and his whole household believed. <sup>54</sup> This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee.

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

### **Sermon -Jesus Heals- John 4:43-54**

#### **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.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, 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:** 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.**

### **Scripture Sentence**

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.

1 Corinthians 11:26-28

### **The Confession**

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

**Heavenly Father, you have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have broken your holy laws and have left undone what we ought to have done.**

**We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.**

**For the sake of your Son who died for us, forgive us, cleanse us and change us.**

**By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. John 3:16

### **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 129 Amazing Grace**

**Amazing grace! how sweet the sound!**

**That saved a wretch like me!**

**I once was lost, but now am found;**

**Was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,**

**And grace my fears relieved.**

**How precious did that grace appear**

**The hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares**

**I have already come.**

**'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,**

**And grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,**

**Bright, shining as the sun,**

**We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we first begun.**

### **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.**

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, making us in your own image. We praise you for your son, our saviour Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and rising to new life offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people. Therefore, we lift our voices to praise you, saying,

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

And now, gracious God, we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine, and pray that we who receive them in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit according to our Saviour's word, in remembrance of his suffering and death, may share his body and his blood.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying 'Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you.

We who are many are one body in Christ, **for we all share in the one bread.**

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 which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

We eat this bread and drink this cup **to proclaim the death of the Lord.**

We do this until he returns. **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Father, as we recall his saving death and glorious resurrection, may we who share these gifts be renewed by the Holy Spirit, and united in the body of your Son. Bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom, there to feast at your table and join in your eternal praise.

**Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive praise and honour and glory and power forever and ever. Amen**

### **The Holy Communion**

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, 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 154 - Great is Thy faithfulness**

Great is Thy faithfulness O God my Father  
There is no shadow Of turning with Thee  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be

#### ***Chorus***

Great is Thy faithfulness, Great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning New mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness Lord unto me

Summer and winter And springtime and harvest  
Sun moon and stars In their courses above  
Join with all nature In manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness Mercy and love *Chorus*

Pardon for sin And a peace that endureth  
Thy own dear presence To cheer and to guide  
Strength for today And bright hope for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine With ten thousand beside *Chorus*

### **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 - John 4:43-54 - Jesus Heals**

Is anything more heart-rending than a sick child?

My grandson was running a temperature for a few days this week so he had a couple of days off daycare. It didn't slow him down much, but he needed lots of Nanna cuddles, which Cath was more than happy to give. Nevertheless, when a child is sick, you really want to put your life on hold until they are better. Fortunately, Demi is pretty well over his cold now.

The gospel today speaks of the son of a royal official whose son was near death. Jesus was in Cana where he turned the water into wine, and this official obviously had some knowledge of Jesus' miraculous abilities, and probably even his ability to heal. So he went to Jesus and begged him to come and heal his son.

He was desperate, because his son was close to death. Who wouldn't be? He begged "Sir (or more literally Lord) , come down before my child dies." He was really worried that Jesus had to be near to the boy to heal him, and that the window was tight because he didn't understand that Jesus could even raise the boy from death.

Despite this, Jesus simply says "the boy will live", and the official takes him at his word. If you calculate the time when he spoke to Jesus and the distance he had to travel to get back to his son in Capernaum, you'd also see how much faith he had in Jesus's assurance - he didn't hurry back. If he had, he would have made it back that evening, rather than the following afternoon. In any case, his son was indeed healed, and the fever had left him precisely when Jesus spoke those words. Jesus certainly can heal, and as he had shown in other cases, he can do it from a distance. In fact, he can even bring people back from death.

Jesus healed when he walked on Earth, and he continues to do it today.

He does it through the hands of skilled doctors, and sometimes he does it without medical intervention, but he truly brings healing, particularly when we pray like the Official - Lord, come quickly.

Now this would be a very short sermon of that was all Jesus said, but did you notice what Jesus said before he said the son would heal? He said "Unless you people see signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe.

It seems a little rough that Jesus puts it this way. The man's son is dying and Jesus just criticises him for needing signs and wonders in order to believe. What was going on?

A sign is something that points to something more important than the sign. A wonder demonstrates the power of the person performing the wonder, and shows that that person is actually more important than the wonder. So Jesus is saying that the healing

points the people towards himself and his wondrous powers, which despite the tragedy of the boy's illness, are far more important than the miraculous healing Jesus performed.

We often get caught up with illness and disease, both our own, but also children and family members, but Jesus also often says that there are more important things for us. You will remember the story of the men who put the paralysed man down through the roof to Jesus - Jesus said his sins were forgiven - and he only healed the man because people would have thought it was easier for him to say his sins were forgiven than to successfully tell him to get up and walk.

The most important disease that Jesus wanted to heal for the royal official was not the sickness of his son, as significant as this was, it was the official, and in fact the whole crowd's, unbelief. He miraculously healed the boy to point the crowds to himself, as he knew that they would never believe without signs and wonders.

So, it is absolutely right for us to pray for healing for ourselves and our family members when they are ill in their bodies or minds. Our New Testament reading from James tells us: Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective, and both for Jesus and James, forgiveness for sins is more important than healing from disease.

Now, by way of conclusion, I suspect that some, if not many of you, are thinking that you haven't seen any miraculous healings or other wondrous signs, and if Jesus said that people would not believe without signs and wonders, how can we believe? How can we be forgiven?

It is true that many will not see wonders, or at least will not recognise them, but Jesus has demonstrated a miracle far greater than healing a sick boy, far greater than changing water into wine, far greater even than raising Lazarus from the dead. God raised Jesus Christ, God the Son from death to eternal life. Jesus was sinless, and never should have died, because death is the judgment for sin, but Jesus took the judgment for the whole world's sin upon himself when he died on the cross, and he himself rose again to show the most miraculous healing of all. He died that we might be fully forgiven, not just temporarily healed in this life, but that we might rise with him to eternal life forever. Even more than we grieve for ill children, Jesus grieves for all who need forgiveness. He has miraculously forgiven all who believe in him and his death and resurrection on their behalf, and, as 1 Timothy tells us, God our Savior, wants all people to be saved (1 Timothy 2:3-4).

Let us pray that our whole households, not just be physically and mentally healed, but that they believe and gain the eternal healing that Jesus offers.

Amen