

**Cooma Anglican Sunday 29 June 2025 HC 2.1**

**Hymn TIS 693 Come as you are, that's how I want you**

Come as you are, that's how I want you  
Come as you are, feel quite at home  
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven  
Come as you are, why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits  
No need to fear, love never ends  
Don't run away, shamed and disheartened  
Rest in my love, trust me again

I came to call sinners, not just the virtuous  
I came to bring peace, not to condemn  
Each time you fail, to live by my promise  
Why do you think, I'd love you the less?

Come as you are, that's how I love you  
Come as you are, trust me again  
Nothing can change, the love that I bear you  
All will be well, just come as you are.

**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**

For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. John 5:18

**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**

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to suffer death upon a cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin that we may evermore dwell in him in the joy of his resurrection, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Deuteronomy 5:12-15

<sup>12</sup> “Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the LORD your God has commanded you.  
<sup>13</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>14</sup> but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns, so that your male and female servants may rest, as you do. <sup>15</sup> Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.

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

### Psalms 36:1-12 (NIV)

<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.**

### Revelation 5:11-14

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. <sup>12</sup> In a loud voice they were saying:  
“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength  
and honor and glory and praise!”  
<sup>13</sup> Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:  
“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be praise and honor and glory and power,  
for ever and ever!”

<sup>14</sup> The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

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

### **John 5:16-30 (NIV)**

#### **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>16</sup> So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. <sup>17</sup> In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” <sup>18</sup> For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. <sup>19</sup> Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. <sup>20</sup> For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed. <sup>21</sup> For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, <sup>23</sup> that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him. <sup>24</sup> “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. <sup>25</sup> Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup> For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. <sup>27</sup> And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup> “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice <sup>29</sup> and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned. <sup>30</sup> By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

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

### **Sermon - Jesus is equal with the Father**

#### **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 607 - Make me a channel of your peace:

**Make me a channel of your peace:**  
**Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;**  
**where there is injury, your healing power,**  
**and where there's doubt, true faith in you.**

### Chorus

O, Master, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace:  
where there's despair in life let me bring hope;  
Where there is darkness, only light,  
and where there's sadness, ever joy. *Chorus*

Make me a channel of your peace:  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving to all that we receive,  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life. *Chorus*

### 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 158 - Now thank we all our God**

**Now thank we all our God, With hearts and hands and voices  
Who wondrous things has done, In whom the world rejoices  
Who from our mother's arms, Has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today**

**O may this bounteous God, Through all our life be near us  
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us  
Lord, keep us in your grace And guide us when perplexed  
And free us from all harm In this world and the next**

**All praise and thanks to God who reigns in highest heaven,  
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:  
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,  
who ever was, is now, and shall be ever more.**

### **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 5:16-30 Jesus is equal with the Father**

Today, Jesus gets his first chance to explain himself to the Jewish leaders. They were starting to persecute Jesus because they had learnt that he had told the paralysed man at the Bethesda pool to pick up his mat.

Of course, when I say persecute, I don't mean a bit of mild criticism. No, the Jewish leaders were serious, they were working on getting Jesus killed. They might have thought to themselves it was judicial execution - or capital punishment, but we know that the arrest and trial were a complete set up. In no way was justice given, or even given anything but the most casual mood.

But that's all down the track at the time of today's reading. Jesus is making his first defence, at least that John records, and he starts by addressing the claim that they had broken the Sabbath.

### **Sabbath law**

Most people know the fourth commandment: Exodus 20:8-11 (NIV) "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns.

You or I might ask what carrying a sleeping mat has to do with this as it certainly wasn't work in the sense of earning money. However, the Pharisees, and their modern day counterparts, orthodox Jews are so concerned that they don't break the commandments that they have come up with 39 categories of work that they prohibit on the Sabbath. The first of these is carrying, but other categories are burning, extinguishing, cooking, plowing, harvesting, finishing and selecting, each of which has extensive commentary about what it doesn't and doesn't include, and so what is prohibited and what is allowed on the Sabbath.

Carrying is specifically prohibited because the Jews were specifically named from carrying manna on the Sabbath during the Exodus. In Numbers, God directed Moses that a man be put to death for carrying firewood on the Sabbath, and there are numerous other old testament passages that support the law.



Despite this biblical support for the Sabbath law, the Jewish leaders found it convenient to exert some control over the population. The last thing they wanted was for anyone to suggest that the people did not need to keep the laws that they policed. This ate into their authority and had to be stopped.

### **Jesus's Defence**

Jesus's opening argument in his defence was My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working. I suspect that Jesus expected the response, but his statement incited the leaders even more because now it wasn't just a man saying people could break their precious law, it was a man claiming to be God, or at least equal with God. Unless it was true (and they would never believe that), this was blasphemy of the highest order.

Jesus knew how much this claim upset the leaders. John tells us they were now trying all the more to kill him. Yet despite this, Jesus never backs away from it. He gives a very detailed description of how he is equal with God the Father, how they do the same things, and honouring the Son honours the father.

### **Firstly - Showing and Doing**

Jesus said that because the Father loves the Son, he shows the Son what he does, and they do the same things. He says he and God are so united that he only does what God the Father does, and in fact, he can do nothing by himself without the Father.

Already in Jesus's ministry, they have already seen Jesus perform miracles - he has turned water into wine, and he had miraculously healed people - but Jesus says that they haven't seen anything yet - he has yet to perform even greater miracles, and he knows that when he does, they will be amazed. In particular he knows that everyone who has died will be raised from Jesus by Jesus, and this will certainly amaze everyone, because everyone will participate in it.

### **Secondly - both the Father and the Son give life.**

Jesus says that just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so Jesus gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. Not only does this happen in the last days, when Jesus returns and all the dead are raised to life, either to eternal life with him or to eternal condemnation.

In order to do this, God has even entrusted all judgement to Jesus. God does not judge independently of Jesus, he does not judge without Jesus, but in fact,



everyone is judged based on whether the honour Jesus as the Son of God, the only saviour of the world.

### **Finally, Honouring the Son brings honour to the Father**

This is the final point I will make regarding Jesus's defence. Jesus said God entrusted all judgment to him that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He makes it absolutely clear when he reiterates: Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

This might seem a strange defence for a man being judged of heretically claiming to be equal with God, to point out three critical ways in which he is precisely that - equal with God, equal in action, equal in life giving, and equally worthy of honour.

The Jewish leaders think they are judging Jesus, and in a very real sense they are judging him rightly - except that he is not just claiming to be equal with God, which would be heresy and worthy of the death they were seeking for him. He is in actual fact, in absolute reality equal with God - in fact he is not only the Son of God, he is God the Son, equally divine, equal with the Father and Holy Spirit, and equally God.

The Jewish leaders are in fact judging themselves as Jesus explains when he says: whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. The Jewish leaders judge themselves when they do not believe Jesus's words, because it shows they do not believe God, the one who sent Jesus. So, when Jesus returns, will not cross over from death to life, they will suffer eternal condemnation.

So finally, in conclusion, are you judging yourself like the Jewish leaders, not believing Jesus and his words, not believing God who sent him? Or do you honour Jesus, God the Son, and the one who sent him, God the Father, and on that great and Final day when Jesus returns, when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out, will you who have done what is good in believing in Jesus, will rise to live?

If that is not you, now is the time to do something about it, please talk to me after the service about how you too can rise to eternal life on that day.

AMEN