

SUNDAY 27 July 2025 - St Paul's Cooma 9.30am

## Introduction

### Hymn - TIS 406 - Spirit divine, attend our prayers

Spirit divine, attend our prayers  
and make this house your home;  
descend with all your gracious powers:  
O come, great Spirit, come.

Come as the light: to us reveal  
our emptiness and woe,  
and lead us in those paths of life  
where all the righteous go.

Come as the fire: and purge our hearts  
like sacrificial flame;  
let our whole life an offering be  
to our Redeemer's name.

Come as the dove: and spread your wings,  
the wings of peaceful love,  
and let your Church on earth become  
blest as the Church above.

Come as the wind, with rushing sound  
and pentecostal grace,  
that all of woman born may see  
the glory of your face.

Spirit divine, attend our prayers,  
make this lost world your home;  
descend with all your gracious powers;  
O come, great Spirit, come.

## Greeting

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you.**

## Sentence of the day

I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark —you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. Genesis 6:17-18

### 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.**

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.'

### Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we may finally lose not the things eternal. Grant this, O Heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

### The Ministry of the Word

#### Genesis 6:9-22, 7:17-24 (NIV)

<sup>9</sup> This is the account of Noah and his family.

Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. <sup>10</sup> Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

<sup>11</sup> Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. <sup>12</sup> God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. <sup>13</sup> So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. <sup>14</sup> So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. <sup>15</sup> This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high. <sup>16</sup> Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit high all around. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. <sup>17</sup> I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. <sup>18</sup> But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark —you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. <sup>19</sup> You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. <sup>20</sup> Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. <sup>21</sup> You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them."

<sup>22</sup> Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

<sup>17</sup> For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. <sup>18</sup> The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. <sup>19</sup> They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. <sup>20</sup> The waters rose and covered the

mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits.,<sup>21</sup> Every living thing that moved on land perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind.<sup>22</sup> Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died.<sup>23</sup> Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.

<sup>24</sup> The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.

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

### **Psalms 104:1-13, 27-35 (NIV)**

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

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

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> **He makes winds his messengers, flames of fire his servants.**

<sup>5</sup> He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>27</sup> **All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time.**

<sup>28</sup> When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.

<sup>29</sup> **When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust.**

<sup>30</sup> When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.

<sup>31</sup> **May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works —**

<sup>32</sup> he who looks at the earth, and it trembles, who touches the mountains, and they smoke.

<sup>33</sup> **I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.**

<sup>34</sup> May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the LORD.

<sup>35</sup> **But may sinners vanish from the earth and the wicked be no more. Praise the LORD, my soul. Praise the LORD.**

### **Hebrews 11:1-7 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. <sup>2</sup> This is what the ancients were commended for.

<sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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 24:36-41 (NIV)**

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

<sup>36</sup> "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup> As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

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

### **Sermon - Genesis 6 and 7 - Noah's Salvation**

#### **The Apostle's Creed**

**I believe in God the Father, 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.**

#### **Prayers**

Let us pray for the world and the church.

Response: God of Peace, 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.**

### **Prayer of Preparation**

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**

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table. Let us 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 408 - O breath of God, breathe on us now**

**O breath of God, breathe on us now  
and move within us while we pray;  
you are the spring of our new life,  
the very light of our new day.**

**How strangely you are with us, Lord,  
neither in height nor depth to seek:  
in nearness shall your voice be heard;  
spirit to spirit you will speak.**

**Christ is our advocate on high;**

you are our advocate within:  
O plead the truth, and make reply  
to every argument of sin.

But what a faithless heart of mine:  
the way I know, I know my guide:  
forgive me, O my friend divine,  
that I so often turn aside.

Be with me when no other friend  
the mystery of my heart can share;  
be always known, when fears descend,  
by your best name of Comforter.

### **The 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.**

Loving God, we thank you for this world of wonder and delight. You have given it to us to care for, so that all your creatures may enjoy its bounty.

Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

We thank you that when we turned away from you, you sent Jesus to live and work as one of us, and bring us back to you. He showed us how to love you and set us free to love and serve one another.

Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

We thank you that on the cross Jesus took away our sin, all that keeps us from each other and from you. He frees us from hate and fear, from all that destroys love and trust.

Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

And so with everyone who believes in you, with all the saints and angels, we rejoice and 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 we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine; may we who receive them, as Jesus said, share his body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said, 'Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup and gave you thanks. He shared the cup with them and said, 'This is my blood poured out so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me.'  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

You have gathered us together to feed on Christ and to remember all he has done for us. Fill us with your Spirit that we may follow Jesus in all we do and say, working for justice and bringing your peace to this world that you have made. Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen**

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

Father of all we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. **Keep us in this hope that we have grasped: so we and all your people will be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name.**

### **Hymn - TIS 626 -Lord of Creation**

Lord of creation, to you be all praise!  
Most mighty your working, most wondrous your ways!  
Your glory and might are beyond us to tell,  
And yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.

Lord of all power, I give you my will,  
In joyful obedience your tasks to fulfil.  
Your bondage is freedom; your service is song;  
And, held in your keeping, my weakness is strong.

Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind,  
Rich truth that surpasses our knowledge to find;  
What eye has not seen and what ear has not heard  
Is taught by your Spirit and shines from your word.

Lord of the bounty, I give you my heart;  
I praise and adore you for all you impart,  
Your love to inspire me, your counsel to guide,  
Your presence to shield me, whatever betide.

Lord of all being, I give you my all;  
If ever I leave you, I stumble and fall;  
But, led in your service your word to obey.

**I'll walk in your freedom to the end of the way.**

## **Notices**

### **Dismissal**

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the love of God, and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**



## Sermon Genesis 6-7 - Noah's Salvation

### Introduction

We're resuming looking at *Genesis*, we previously looked at creation, the fall, and the story of Cain and Abel. Today is the first of two sermons on Noah and the flood. It's a well known story, so I won't be looking at the details of the flood or the ark so much as some of the bigger picture issues, and in particular "why did God judge the earth this way", and "why was Noah spared?"

### Why did God judge the earth this way? How was the world evil?

Verse 5 says The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. God regretted he had created mankind

*Genesis* says the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. 12 God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.

What did it mean that every inclination of the thoughts of mankind was only evil all the time? Looking back at what has displeased God in the first 5 chapters of *Genesis*, we see:

- It was not good for man to be alone (so God created woman)
- Eve and Adam disobeyed God when they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and Evil
- The serpent deceived Adam and Eve
- Cain brought an offering that God did not favour
- Cain killed his brother Abel
- Lamech kill a young man for wounding him
- The sons of God married human wives

I haven't learnt a lot from the etymology of the words Evil and Wickedness - they both basically mean 'badness' in all its senses, natural and moral.

Looking at the list, there does appear to be a common theme of respecting God and his plan.

- It was not God's plan for men to be alone, so he created Eve, but sons of God having relationships with human women was bad.
- It was not God's plan that humankind have the knowledge of good and evil, so any corruption, including the serpent deceiving Adam and Eve, and them eating the fruit, was bad.
- It was God's plan that humankind worship him wholeheartedly, so Cain's half hearted offering was bad.
- Violence and Death was not part of God's original plan, so Cain murdering his brother is bad, just like Lamech killing the young man. Violence of any kind is just a way of usurping power for yourself that should only be God's.

Ultimately, God's plan is to be Lord over his creation, in the forefront of all creation's minds and inclinations. Anything that works against his perfect and good plan, anything that sidelines God or his plan, either directly or by deceiving others to do so, is bad.

At the time of Noah, except for Noah himself, every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. Not only were they neglecting to worship God as they should, they were constantly thinking of ways to sideline God and his plan. In other words, they were seeking to set themselves up as God, but without the perfect knowledge of good and evil that he had, and this is disastrous for God's perfect plan.

### **How was Noah good?**

The writer of Genesis said that leading up to the flood, Noah was the only exception to this.

Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God, who found him righteous in his generation. Twice the phrase "Noah did everything just as God commanded him." is repeated. 2 Peter describes Noah as a "herald of righteousness."

By walking faithfully with God, Noah's focus was always on God and his plan. Despite the misgivings he must have had, and the ridicule of his neighbors, Noah was not deceived and did everything just as God commanded. He was nearly 600 years old when we made an ark of cypress wood; with rooms in it and coated with pitch inside and out. The ark was three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high. That's about the length of our Navy's Hobart class destroyer, but 2.5 times the beam). He made a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit high (or 45cm) all around. He put a door in the side of the ark and made lower, middle and upper decks. Noah a bit longer than the Australian shipbuilding industry which took 10 years to build the first Hobart destroyer, and it appears Noah took about 100 years - but he was probably had a team of 5 (including God), and it took thousands, with very sophisticated machinery to build HMAS HOBART.

Anyway, when it was finished, in just 7 days, he went into the ark, with his whole family, his wife, their three sons and their wives, taking with him seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, 3 and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. He took every sort of food that is eaten, to serve as food for all of them. God was obviously helping him as it takes me nearly that long to get my cats into a cat crate to take them to the vet.

Also, as we shall hear next week, as soon as Noah and the animals left the ark after the waters receded and God commanded, he built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

### **God's Mercy**

God cut a covenant with Noah, rescuing him from the drowning that caught up every other living thing on earth. God rescued Noah because of righteousness, even though we shall find out in the next few weeks that Noah wasn't perfect, and nor was his family. In fact, as Romans 3 tells us, "None is righteous, no, not

one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." (Romans 3:10-12). Noah and his family sinned greatly after the flood, and yet God saved them in his mercy.

Our New Testament reading told us that "By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household." In effect, Noah condemned the world, showing it to be completely unrighteous, and he became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. As unrighteous as Noah was was later shown to be, by faith he received righteousness by faith, the same righteousness, and eternal salvation we receive from God through Jesus's death and resurrection.

Noah did not live on earth long enough to see this perfect salvation that he was promised, to see God come to earth as the man Jesus Christ. Although God commended him for faith, he did not then receive what had been promised. He did not receive then what God has planned for all who have faith in Jesus, something better so that only together with us would he be made perfect. (Hebrews 11:39-40) He saved himself and his family, and ultimately, every subsequent living creature on earth through his obedience to God, but even greater salvation is to come.

Jesus doesn't just save us to live out our maximum of 120 or so allotted years in this earth in the loneliness that old age often brings. He died and rose again to save us for an eternal righteous life in perfect relationship with the rest of humanity and creation. He didn't just save us to live in this world of violence, corruption, disease and pain, but in a perfectly restored, incorruptible world where every tear will be washed away. And he died that we might spend eternity in perfect relationship with Him, worshipping Him as he planned from the beginning.

This is the salvation that Noah's family's salvation from the flood foreshadowed. Noah did not see his salvation until after he had built the ark in

faith, and we will not see our eternal salvation until we put our faith in Jesus's death and resurrection, and see him return as he has promised.

Are you looking forward to that day in faith, like Noah was looking forward to the waters receding?