

**Sunday 17 August 2025 Cooma Anglican HC 3**

**Hymn: TIS 627** Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer,  
Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer,  
for all things living you have made good;  
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,  
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

Lord, bless the labour we bring to serve you,  
that with our neighbour we may be fed.  
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you;  
harvesting, milling, for daily bread.

Father, providing food for your children,  
your wisdom guiding teaches us share  
one with another, so that, rejoicing,  
sister and brother may know your care.

Then will your blessing reach every people;  
each one confessing your gracious hand;  
where you are reigning no one will hunger,  
your love sustaining fruitful the land.

### **Sentence of Scripture**

After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." John 6:14

### **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**

Everliving God

Your Son, Jesus Christ, gave himself as living bread for the life of the world; give us such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever **Amen**

### Deuteronomy 18:13-20 (NIV)

<sup>13</sup> You must be blameless before the LORD your God. <sup>14</sup> The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the LORD your God has not permitted you to do so. <sup>15</sup> The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. <sup>16</sup> For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, "Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die." <sup>17</sup> The LORD said to me: "What they say is good. <sup>18</sup> I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. <sup>19</sup> I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. <sup>20</sup> But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death."

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

### Psalms 81:10-16 (NIV)

<sup>10</sup> I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt. Open wide your mouth and I will fill it.

<sup>11</sup> **"But my people would not listen to me; Israel would not submit to me.**

<sup>12</sup> So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own devices.

<sup>13</sup> **"If my people would only listen to me, if Israel would only follow my ways,**

<sup>14</sup> how quickly I would subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes!

<sup>15</sup> **Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him, and their punishment would last forever.**

<sup>16</sup> **But you would be fed with the finest of wheat; with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."**

### 1 Corinthians 10:14-17 (NIV)

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. <sup>15</sup> I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. <sup>16</sup> Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? <sup>17</sup> Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

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

### John 6:1-15 (NIV)

#### Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

<sup>1</sup> Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), <sup>2</sup> and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. <sup>3</sup> Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. <sup>4</sup> The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

<sup>5</sup> When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" <sup>6</sup> He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

<sup>7</sup> Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

<sup>8</sup> Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, <sup>9</sup> "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). <sup>11</sup> Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. <sup>12</sup> When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

<sup>14</sup> After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." <sup>15</sup> Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

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

## **Sermon - Who is Jesus? John 6**

### **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 Cor 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 is slow to anger and full of compassion, forgiving all who humbly repent and trust in his Son as Saviour and Lord. God therefore forgives you in Christ Jesus, in whom there is no condemnation. **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 256 The Servant King**

**From heav'n You came helpless babe, Enter'd our world, Your glory veil'd  
Not to be served but to serve and give Your life that we might live**

#### **Chorus**

***This is our God, the Servant King He calls us now to follow Him  
To bring our lives as a daily offering Of worship to the Servant King***

**There in the garden of tears my heavy load He chose to bear  
His heart with sorrow was torn Yet not my will but Yours He said *Chorus***

**Come see His hands and His feet The scars that speak of sacrifice  
Hands that flung stars into space To cruel nails, Surrendered *Chorus***

**So let us learn how to serve And in our lives enthrone Him  
Each other's needs to prefer For it is Christ we're serving *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.**

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 655 - O let the Son of God enfold you**

O let the Son of God enfold you with His Spirit and His love,  
Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.

O let Him have the things that hold you, and His Spirit, like a dove,  
Will descend upon your life and make you whole.

#### **Chorus**

*Jesus, O Jesus Come and fill our lives*

*Jesus, O Jesus Come and fill Your lives*

O come and sing this song with gladness, as your hearts are filled with joy.  
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name.

O give Him all your tears and sadness, give Him all your years of pain,  
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name. **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 6:1-15 - Who is Jesus?**

Who do you think Jesus is? Wise Teacher? Good Man? Miracle Worker? Healer? Teacher?

The Bible is constantly asking you who Jesus is. You may think you are reading the Bible to find out who Jesus is, but the Bible examines you to find out who you say Jesus is. This really is the most important question you can ever answer, because your answer defines your relationship with him, and that, as CS Lewis said, is either of no importance or of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.

In our reading today we see at least 8 different ways that people saw Jesus.

### **Miracle Worker**

The crowds saw Jesus as a miraculous healer Verse 2 says they followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. If they saw him as a healer, they wanted him to heal them or heal their family members, or they wanted to be entertained.

Today people see Jesus as a miraculous healer. The only time they think of him, call to him or pray to him is when they want to be healed of some illness or misfortune. It is absolutely true that Jesus did and does heal. As you read your Bibles, the one thing you will never read is anyone questioning that Jesus genuinely healed people. While the situation is different today, with many people questioning the reality of contemporary miracle healings, there is also no doubt that many are real. Yes - Jesus is a miraculous healer.

### **Teacher**

In verse 3 we see a different response to Jesus. The disciples saw him as their teacher, they went up a mountainside to sit with him and be taught by him. We don't know specifically what Jesus taught them, although it may have had to do with keeping the Passover, but he did teach them. Similarly today, many people see Jesus as a wise teacher - reading through the scriptures to find wisdom for living. Many even say that his teachings are authoritative - they should be believed, but in many cases, they want other people to follow his teachings, not themselves. In any case, they usually limit which of Jesus's teaching they actually want to believe and live by - that only some of Jesus's teachings are authoritative. So Yes, Jesus is an authoritative teacher.

### **Social Worker**

Philip saw Jesus as a social worker, organising other people to feed those in need. In verse 5, Jesus asked Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" By his response, "It would take more than half a year's wages to

buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" You can see that he wasn't expecting Jesus, or even anyone to actually do anything about the crowd's hunger unless the crowd did it for themselves, trudging the great distance to the closest place they could buy food and buy it for themselves.

I'm not disparaging the value of social workers, but their role is usually to help people help themselves, or find others to provide the support that people need, and Jesus certainly did that. People today also see Jesus as a social worker in this way - about 82% in one survey thought "God helps those who help themselves" was a verse in the Bible, although it is more true that God helps the helpless. Nevertheless, as the National Association of Social Workers explained that one of the main purposes of a social worker is to restore and enhance the functioning of individuals, families and groups, and communities, and Jesus certainly does this, Jesus is a social worker.

### **Prophet**

After the crowds had been fed and the remains cleared away, the crowd said "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." They were expecting a prophet because of our Old Testament reading from Deuteronomy, in which God said to Moses: I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. 19 I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. Ever since Moses, Israel had been expecting this prophet who was to be like Moses, and they thought that Jesus may have been the one. Similarly, some people today see Jesus as a prophet: someone who brings messages from God, and Jesus certainly did this. He called himself a prophet, a prophet without honour in his home town, who could not die outside Jerusalem, and he did the things expected of a prophet, so Yes, Jesus was a prophet.

### **A Token**

In verses 8 and 9 when offering the boy's lunch, Peter may have thought Jesus's efforts would merely be a symbol, a token. He may have thought that Jesus would simply pass on the 5 loaves and two fishes from the boy to the crowd, providing just token and ultimately ineffective sustenance. Today, people still see Jesus as tokenistic, helping people live better lives and get closer to God, which Jesus definitely does

### **Extravagant Caterer**

When gathering up the basketfuls of leftovers, the crowds would have seen Jesus as extravagantly meeting their physical needs - not only had he provided for their needs by providing sufficient food to allow them to safely travel



home, he provided 12 basketfuls more that would have been wasted if had not been collected. Many people expect Jesus to act this way today - fulfilling all their desires, and in many cases taking their queue from Psalm 37:4 Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Jesus does give those who put their trust and faith in him the desires of their hearts, he does meet our spiritual needs extravagantly, so Yes, he is the extravagant caterer.

### **Revolutionary King**

After the feeding people called Jesus their Prophet, and wanted to make him king by force. They were expecting the Messiah to come to re-establish the political state of Israel to free them from the hated Romans and bring the nation back to world prominence it deserved. Many people of his day, including Jesus himself, did call Jesus the king of the Jews, even though he said that his kingdom was not of this earth (John 18:36). So Yes, Jesus is a king.

### **Conclusion**

Today we have seen how many people of Jesus's day, and today see Jesus. People see him as a miracle worker, teacher, social worker, prophet, token, extravagant caterer and revolutionary king. He did all those things as he walked this earth some two thousand years ago, and he continues to do them today for those who put their faith and trust in him today.

Yes, Jesus is all these things, but Jesus is also much more. Over the next few weeks as we continue to look through John's gospel, we will see that he didn't just perform miracles, He wasn't just a great teacher, a social worker, a prophet, a token, an extravagant caterer or a revolutionary king.

He didn't just feed a multitude with physical food that would leave them feeling hungry in a couple of hours, he didn't just help people find the solution to their problems by looking within themselves or getting someone else's help. He didn't just proclaim God's words, he was vastly more than a token, and a completely different king to what the crowds were expecting.

As we continue to read John's gospel we will see how Jesus is so much more than all these things, so much more than what the crowds or we think.

As we read John, we will see who God's word, the Bible, says Jesus is, and it is my prayer that you will come to answer the same way the Bible does, that Jesus is God the Son, living Bread who gives eternal life.

But you will have to come back next week to hear more about that.

Amen