

SUNDAY 24 August 2025 - St Paul's Cooma 9.30am

Introduction

Hymn - TIS 231 - At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him King of Glory now:
this the Father's pleasure that we call him Lord,
who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season to receive a name
from the lips of sinners unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious, when from death he passed.

In your hearts enthrone him, there let him make new
all that is not holy, all that is not true.
He is God the Saviour, he is Christ the Lord,
ever to be worshipped, trusted and adored.

When this same Lord Jesus shall appear again,
in his Father's glory, there with him to reign,
then may we adore him, all before him bow,
as our hearts confess him King of Glory now.

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

But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid." Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading. John 6:20-21

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

Creator God, you have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you; teach us to offer ourselves to your mercy that we may have your peace, and in the world to come may see you face to face, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

The Ministry of the Word

Exodus 14:21-31 (NIV)

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, ²² and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. ²⁴ During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. ²⁵ He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt." ²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." ²⁷ Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. ²⁸ The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

²⁹ But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. ³⁰ That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. ³¹ And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

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

Psalms 107:23-32 (NIV)

²³ Some went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters.

²⁴ **They saw the works of the LORD, his wonderful deeds in the deep.**

²⁵ For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves.

²⁶ **They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths; in their peril their courage melted away.**

²⁷ They reeled and staggered like drunkards; they were at their wits' end.

²⁸ **Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress.**

²⁹ He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed.

³⁰ **They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven.**

³¹ Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind.

³² **Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people and praise him in the council of the elders.**

Romans 8:31-39 (NIV)

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died —more than that, who was raised to life —is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

John 6:16-24 (NIV)

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, ¹⁷ where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. ¹⁸ A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. ²⁰ But he said to them, “It is I; don’t be afraid.” ²¹ Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

²² The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone. ²³ Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴ Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus.

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

Sermon - John 6:16-24 - Jesus, Saviour, Deliverer, With Us

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 516 - Here, gracious Lord, we see you face to face

Here, gracious Lord, we see you face to face;
here would we touch and handle things unseen,
here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace,
and for sustaining strength upon you lean.

Here would we feed upon the bread of God,
here drink with you the royal wine of heaven;
here would we lay aside each earthly load,
here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

We need no help but yours, nor do we need
another arm save yours to lean upon;
it is enough, O Lord, enough indeed;
our strength is in your might, your might alone.

Ours is the sin, but yours the righteousness;
ours is the guilt, but yours the cleansing blood;
here are our robe, our refuge and our peace
your blood, your righteousness, O Lord our God.

Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
the Lamb's great bridal feast of bliss and love.

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 571 - Forth in your name, O Lord, I go

Forth in your name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labour to pursue,
You, Lord, alone resolved to know,
in all I think, or speak, or do.

Each task your wisdom has assigned
still let me cheerfully fulfil,
in all my works your presence find,
and prove your good and perfect will.

You may I set at my right hand,
whose eyes my inmost substance view,
and labour on at your command,
and offer all my works to you.

Give me to bear your easy yoke,
and every moment watch and pray,
and still to things eternal look,
and hasten to your glorious day;

for you delightfully employ
all that your bounteous grace has given,
and run my course with even joy,
and closely walk with you to heaven.

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 John 65:16-24 Saviour, Deliverer, With us

Did you see the film "Being There", where Peter Sellers plays an innocent gardener, forced to leave the only place he ever lived when his employer dies? He stumbles haplessly into celebrity after being taken under the wing of a tycoon, who mistakes his mumbling about horticulture for wise pronouncements on life and politics. The film finishes with him walking on water, but gives no explanation how or why. This week's reading shows Jesus walking on water, and also doesn't give an obvious explanation. It might just reinforce a view that he's a miracle worker, but as we found out last week, it is showing us again that Jesus is so much more.

At the end of our passage last week, Jesus, knowing the crowd intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew. The disciples went down to the lake, got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. It was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them.

So, we have the disciples in a boat, at night, without Jesus. A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. Our brave fishermen were terrified. Apparently, the large difference in height between the Sea of Galilee and surrounding land causes strong winds funneling through the hills with violent results. Storms arise quickly and without warning. As it is also shallow, less than 60 metres, the sea is whipped up by wind more rapidly than deep water. Small boats caught out on the sea are in real danger.

On top of this, the disciples see Jesus walking on the water, and this terrifies them even more. Perhaps they thought it was the Grim Reaper coming to escort them to Hades. So Jesus has to reassure them who he is, and tells them not to be afraid. It must have been a great comfort to have Jesus, who didn't even need a boat, on their boat they thought was about to be swamped!

Despite rowing all night, they were only about half way across. But when Jesus was onboard, they immediately found themselves where they'd been heading.

So we have two miracles - Jesus walking on the water, and the boat miraculously transported to Capernaum. We need to ask ourselves what is the Bible saying to us through this passage? Last week we saw Jesus was more than just a miracle worker, feeding the hungry. This narrative is saying the same - Jesus didn't just walk on water, he is so much more.

Saviour

The first thing that is obvious is that Jesus saved the disciples from the wind and waves. Despite being big, brave, experienced fishermen, the disciples were

terrified for their lives. They were far from the shore in a small boat. They had rowed all night to get that far, the waters were very rough and a strong wind was blowing. They knew that if the boat was swamped they would drown, and Jesus saved them. Jesus is their saviour, just like God saved the Israelites from the angry Egyptians by parting the Red Sea in our Old Testament reading.

Yet Jesus is much more of a Saviour than this passage tells us, both in who he saves and in what he saves them from. Jesus not only saves a few disciples in the boat from drowning in the waves and wind, he saves all those who put their faith in him, whenever they live. He saves them from the eternal judgement they would otherwise get for rejecting God and failing to live the way God expects. Jesus is the eternal, perfect saviour. As the crowds told the Samaritan woman back in John 4, "Truly Jesus is the saviour of the world." Similarly, 2 Timothy tells us our Saviour Christ has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, and Acts 4 tells us that salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." So Jesus is our saviour.

Deliverer

Jesus also dramatically transported the disciples to where they were heading, to Capernaum. He didn't just calm the wind and the waves and leave the disciples to make their own way, he immediately delivered them to the safe shore and the rest they needed from their hours of rowing. Jesus was their deliverer.

But again, Jesus is so much more. He doesn't just forgive us of our sins and leave us to make our own way in this sinful, fallen world. When we die, or he returns, he delivers us to the new, perfectly restored heaven and earth, where those who put their trust in him will live in perfect relationship with God, with creation and with all who put their trust in Jesus. It is interesting that in this new heaven and earth there won't be any dangerous sea, so we can be in perfect harmony with creation, without fear.

With them

Also, despite the disciples leaving sailing before Jesus had joined them, Jesus was with the disciples in the middle of the lake - in the middle of the waves and wind. Jesus was with the disciples in the midst of their afflictions and fear, in with them in the midst of their danger and fear. Jesus was with them.

And similarly, Jesus is so much more than with the disciples in the middle of the angry sea. Paul tells in Romans 8 I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,

³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. As Jesus told us in the great commission at the end of Matthew's gospel, surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:20

Conclusion

In the movie *Being There*, the film makers tried to show that the gardener was more than just a misunderstood, simple man by having him walk on the water. Similarly, we continually see in the gospels that Jesus is more than saviour, deliverer and with those disciples in the boat on the Sea of Galilee. He is saviour, deliverer and with all those who put their trust in him.

The Bible is constantly asking you who Jesus is, and today, I want you to be sure of your answer - I want you to be sure that Jesus is your eternal saviour and deliverer, and he is always with you to the very end of the age.

Is this who Jesus is for you?