

Cooma Anglican 12 October 2025 2nd Order 1st Thanksgiving APBA

Welcome

Hymn TIS 201 - King of glory, King of peace

King of glory, King of peace, I will love thee;
and, that love may never cease, I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request, thou hast heard me;
thou didst note my working breast, thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art, I will sing thee,
and the cream of all my heart, I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried, thou didst clear me;
and alone, when they replied, thou didst hear me.

Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee;
in my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort, to enrol thee:
ev'n eternity's too short, to extol thee.

Greeting

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**

Sentence of the Day

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31

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.

Lord, have mercy on us, and write your law in our hearts by your Holy Spirit

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

Almighty God, in your wisdom you have so ordered our earthly life that we must walk by faith and not by sight: give us such a trust in your fatherly care that in the face of all perplexities, we may give proof of our faith by the courage of our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

The Ministry of the Word

Malachi 2:10-12

¹⁰ Do we not all have one Father? Did not one God create us? Why do we profane the covenant of our ancestors by being unfaithful to one another?

¹¹ Judah has been unfaithful. A detestable thing has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem: Judah has desecrated the sanctuary the LORD loves by marrying women who worship a foreign god. ¹² As for the man who does this, whoever he may be, may the LORD remove him from the tents of Jacob—even though he brings an offering to the LORD Almighty.

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

Psalms 68:1-6

¹ May God arise, may his enemies be scattered; may his foes flee before him.

² **May you blow them away like smoke—as wax melts before the fire, may the wicked perish before God.**

³ But may the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; may they be happy and joyful.

⁴ **Sing to God, sing in praise of his name, extol him who rides on the clouds; rejoice before him—his name is the LORD.**

⁵ A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.

⁶ **God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.**

Romans 6:15-18

¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

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

John 7:1-13

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

³³ They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

³⁴ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷ I know that you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word. ³⁸ I

am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you are doing what you have heard from your father."

³⁹ "Abraham is our father," they answered.

"If you were Abraham's children," said Jesus, "then you would do what Abraham did.

⁴⁰ As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. ⁴¹ You are doing the works of your own father." "We are not illegitimate children," they protested. "The only Father we have is God himself."

⁴² Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. ⁴³ Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. ⁴⁴ You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! ⁴⁶ Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? ⁴⁷ Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

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

Sermon - John 8:31-47 - The Truth will set you free

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.

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 forever.**

Prayers

Let us pray for the world and the church.

Response: Lord, 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.

Exhortation

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we who would come to the holy communion of the body and blood of our Saviour Christ must consider how St Paul exhorts us to examine ourselves before presuming to eat of that bread and drink of that cup. For the benefit is great, if with a penitent heart and lively faith we receive that holy sacrament. We then spiritually eat the flesh of Christ and drink his blood; we dwell in Christ and he in us; we are one with Christ and Christ with us. Yet also the danger is great if we receive the bread and cup unworthily. Judge yourselves therefore, that you be not judged of the Lord. Repent truly of your sins, having a steadfast faith in Christ our Saviour. Amend your lives and love your neighbour.

Above all, give hearty thanks to God for the redemption of the world by the death and passion of our Saviour Christ, truly God and truly human, who humbled himself to death on the cross for us sinners, that he might make us children of God, and raise us to eternal life.

You who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God and walking in his holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to strengthen and comfort you. But first, let us make a humble confession of our sins to almighty God.

Confession

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we acknowledge with shame the sins we have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against your divine majesty, provoking most justly your wrath and indignation against us.

We earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for all our misdoings. Have mercy on us, most merciful Father. For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please you in newness of life, to the honour and glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all who with hearty repentance and true faith turn to him: have mercy on you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear the words of assurance for those who truly turn to Christ: If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and he is the perfect offering for our sins. 1 John 2:1-2

Hymn TIS 597 Master speak Thy servant heareth

**Master speak Thy servant heareth
Waiting for Thy gracious word
Longing for Thy voice that cheereth
Master let it now be heard
I am listening Lord for Thee
What hast Thou to say to me**

**Speak to me by name O Master
Let me know it is to me
Speak that I may follow faster
With a step more firm and free
Where the Shepherd leads the flock
In the shadow of the rock**

**Master speak and make me ready
When Thy voice is truly heard
With obedience glad and steady
Still to follow every word
I am listening Lord for Thee
Master speak O speak to me**

The Thanksgiving

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.**

It is indeed right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Lord, Mighty Creator and Eternal God. 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 hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Glory to you, O Lord most high.**

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.

All glory to you, our heavenly Father, for in your tender mercy you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death on the cross for our redemption: who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until his coming again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that we who receive these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who on the night he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.' Likewise after supper he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, 'Drink from this, all of you; for this is my blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' Amen.

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

Almighty and everliving God, we heartily thank you that you graciously feed us, who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and thus assure us of your favour and goodness towards us and that we are true members of the mystical body of your Son, the blessed company of all faithful people, and are also heirs, through hope, of your eternal kingdom, by the merits of the most precious death and passion of your dear Son. And we humbly beseech you, heavenly Father, so to assist us with your grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as you have prepared for us to walk in, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, world without end.

Hymn TIS 558 All praise to thee, my God, this night

**All praise to thee, my God, this night
for all the blessings of the light:
keep me, O keep me, King of kings,
beneath thine own almighty wings.**

**Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son,
the ill that I this day have done,
that with the world, myself, and thee
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.**

O may my soul on thee repose,
and may sweet sleep my eyelids close
sleep that shall me more vigorous make
to serve my God when I awake.

When in the night I sleepless lie,
my soul with heavenly thoughts supply;
let no ill dreams disturb my rest,
no powers of darkness me molest.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
praise God, all creatures here below,
praise God above, you heavenly host,
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Notices

Dismissal

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.**

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

Sermon - John 8:31-47 - The Truth will set you free

Introduction

Our gospel reading today starts with Jesus saying "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (**John 8:31-32**). John tells us that Jesus said this to some who had believed in him, but even so, it seemed he really hit a raw nerve.

Why were believing listeners upset?

While John said Jesus was speaking to believers, he had already made it plain that people make false professions of faith. Back in chapter 6, a great multitude followed Jesus into the wilderness but by the end of the chapter many of those disciples turned back and no longer walked with him." (**John 6:66**) The reality is there are true believers and temporary believers. Some believe truly and from the heart, whereas others believe only superficially and externally.

The reason that some who are said to believe in Jesus one moment and are offended by him the next is quite simply that their belief was not true. True belief in Christ means continuing to hold to his teaching, it is an abiding, faithful, and consistent thing.

It is no different today. It is astonishing how quickly some believers become enemies of Christ upon hearing something that offends. They remain in Christ only for a time, not holding on to the end. Jesus warns us that it is those who continue to hold to his teaching, who are really his disciples.

What Was The Offence?

And so the question becomes, What offended these people so deeply?

Jesus spoke of the need for them to be set free. The implication is that they were, at the time that Jesus spoke to them, still in bondage. They were slaves, although they thought that they were already free. Verse 33: ³³ They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

The Jews were willing to believe that Jesus was the Messiah - but he went too far in suggesting that they were in spiritual bondage. They believed themselves to be free inwardly and spiritually because they were Jewish, the children of Abraham. This was the teaching of the Jewish Rabbis in Jesus' day.

Even today, it is quite common for people to believe they are spiritually free, capable of pleasing God, able to stand right before him because they come from a Christian country like Australia, or because they were born to Christian parents. Some believe this because they were baptised as infants, or they consider themselves members of a church.

But it is a grave error to assume you are spiritually free, that you are able to come to God on your own, without the help of the Savior. We are not free. Jesus says we are enslaved apart from him.

When Christ offered freedom to the Jews who were listening to him he was saying in no uncertain terms that they were in fact in bondage - that they were unable, in and of themselves, to please God, or to live before him according to the spirit.

This was too much for them. And this is the teaching that drives many away from Christ even today. They are willing to believe in him so long as he respects their independence, providing he approves of them as they are, saying yes, you are essentially good, inherently capable, and free.

This is the spirit of our age. We know we are not perfect - but we want to be thought of as essentially good, free, with unlimited potential. We think we are free, and able, in and of ourselves to reach up to God to lay ahold of him by our own merits and strength, just like the Jews to whom Jesus was speaking. Yet Jesus is of a different opinion, everyone needs someone to save them from their bondage.

To What Or Whom Are We Enslaved?

The question becomes, to what, or to whom are we enslaved?

Verse 34: "Jesus answered them,"Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin."

Sin enslaves us. We are all in bondage to sin - that is what Jesus teaches. Sin is putting ourselves in the centre instead of God, failing to give glory to the God who made us, and loving the wrong things, doing the wrong things. We are enslaved to sin - doomed to sin again and again. Our sin holds us captive, requiring someone to set us free.

Who Can Set Us Free?

The truth communicated here is that only the Son, only Jesus, can set us free.

In verse 35 we read, "Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever."³⁶ **So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (John 8:35-36)**

The Jews considered themselves to be sons of Abraham. Jesus says they are in fact slaves to sin. They should have seen themselves in the way that a slave would, seeing that their only hope for a permanent place in the Fathers house - their only hope for an inheritance - is found in the graciousness of the Son. "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36)

Our Works Testify to Our Bondage

Jesus proved that his listeners were still in bondage to sin by pointing to their works. Their unbelief and evil works were evidence that they were still in bondage to sin. He says in verse ³⁷ I know that you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word.

³⁹ "Abraham is our father," they answered. "If you were Abraham's children," said Jesus, "then you would do what Abraham did. (John 8:39-40)

The Jews are indeed children of Abraham according to the flesh (they share his DNA), but the true children of Abraham are those who do what Abraham did. This is true of the Jew and of the gentile. It is possible for a Jew to be a child of Abraham according to the flesh, and yet not a child of Abraham according to the spirit. And it is also possible for a gentile to be a child of Abraham, never according to the flesh of course, but according to the spirit, having been grafted into him by faith.

Jesus says, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did." And what were the works of Abraham? He walked by faith. He believed in the promises of God. He heard God's voice and obeyed. As flawed as Abraham was, one thing we can say about him is that he believed God to the end.

Jesus in effect said to the Jews, yes, it is true that you come from Abraham's line, and it is true that you share a family resemblance according to the flesh, but I do not see the family resemblance according to the spirit.

Abraham heard God's word - you do not hear it.

Abraham believed God's word - you disbelieve.

Abraham obeyed God's word - you disobey.

Abraham trusted in God alone - you trust in yourselves.

Physical descent from Abraham? Yes! Spiritual descent? No! Abraham is not your Father. You do not resemble him.

In verse 41 Jesus simply says, "You are doing the works your father did..." The question becomes, who is your father? Put another way, Who do you resemble according to the spirit?

Who Is Your Father?

Jesus has made it clear that Abraham is not their true father. They respond: "We are not illegitimate children, The only Father we have is God himself."
(John 8:41)

Jesus presses further demonstrating that they were not born of God, as they claimed. They could not claim to have God as Father, and their works proved it. Verse 42: ⁴² Jesus said to them, **"If God were your Father, you would love me,** for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. ⁴³ Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. (John 8:42-43) To love the Father is to love the Son. To believe in the word of God is to receive the Word from God.

And then we have Jesus' most piercing statement: ⁴⁴ **You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires.** He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! (John 8:44-45)

Jesus had insisted that Abraham was not their father, and that God was not their father. Here he states most plainly who their father is: "You belong to your father the devil."

The devil is a murderer - they desired to put the Son of God to death.

The devil hates the truth - they would not receive the truth of God.

The devil is the father of lies - his children prefer to swim in his lies, rather than submit to the truth of God.

So they resembled, not Abraham and not God, but the devil.

Conclusion

We all assume that we are basically free, able, by our own efforts and according to our own good deeds, to be in a right relationship with God. We assume that God is our Father.

Jesus says, No. Not because he is mean, but so that we might know the truth, and in knowing the truth, be set free.

The path to freedom starts with acknowledging that we are in slavery.

The way to have God as Father begins with the realization that he is not our Father, and that we need to be adopted through the Son.

Apart from Christ, we are enslaved to sin. We do not have God as Father. Our works prove it. Our sinful deeds show that we resemble, not God, not Abraham, but the Devil himself.

We need the Son to set us free. We need to cry out to him for mercy and trust in him alone for the forgiveness of and freedom from your sins?

And those who call themselves Christians, children of God - do you really resemble your heavenly Father? Do you resemble God according to the spirit? Do your works testify to your being a child of God, or do they condemn you as a fraud?

I want you to have real assurance you are a child of God. And the way to have it is by holding to Jesus's teaching. Jesus says, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Do you hold to Jesus's teaching? Are really his disciples? Do you know the truth? and has the truth set you truly free?