

Cooma Anglican 9 November 2025 2nd Order 1st Thanksgiving APBA

Welcome

Hymn TIS 586 - Abide with me

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide:
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away,
change and decay in all around I see:
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies:
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

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

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 1 John 3:17

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

Blessed Lord, you have caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that, by patience and the comfort of your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Defence Sunday

Lord God of Hosts, we pray for your clergy whom you have called to the ministry of Defence Chaplaincy, and for those who proclaim your love and compassion where Australian military personnel serve. Lord, strengthen their faith as they seek to witness for you in the secular world. Protect them from all dangers and comfort them in the long separations from their families, and from the close fellowship of church. Lord who blessed the peacemakers, bless especially those chaplains serving overseas, helping to bring peace to nations which are struggling to find their identity and place in the world. We are in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever. **Amen**

The Ministry of the Word

Joshua 24:14-22

¹⁴ “Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶ Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods! ¹⁷ It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. ¹⁸ And the LORD drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God. ”

¹⁹ Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the LORD. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. ²⁰ If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.”

²¹ But the people said to Joshua, “No! We will serve the LORD.”

²² Then Joshua said, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD.”

“Yes, we are witnesses,” they replied.

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

Psalm 101

¹ I will sing of your love and justice; to you, LORD, I will sing praise.

² **I will be careful to lead a blameless life —when will you come to me? I will conduct the affairs of my house with a blameless heart.**

³ I will not look with approval on anything that is vile. I hate what faithless people do; I will have no part in it.

⁴ **The perverse of heart shall be far from me; I will have nothing to do with what is evil.**

⁵ Whoever slanders their neighbor in secret, I will put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, I will not tolerate.

⁶ **My eyes will be on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; the one whose walk is blameless will minister to me.**

⁷ No one who practices deceit will dwell in my house; no one who speaks falsely will stand in my presence.

⁸ **Every morning I will put to silence all the wicked in the land; I will cut off every evildoer from the city of the LORD.**

1 John 3:11-18

¹¹ For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.

¹² Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother’s were righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. ¹⁴

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵ Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

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

Matthew 25:41-46

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and

you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

⁴⁴ "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

⁴⁵ "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

⁴⁶ "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life. "

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

Sermon - Gifts of Grace - Service

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 O valiant hearts

**O valiant hearts, who to your glory came
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame
Tranquil you lie your knightly virtue proved
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved**

**Proudly you gathered rank on rank to war
As who had heard God's message from afar
All you had hoped for all you had you gave
To save mankind yourself you scorned to save**

Splendid you passed the great surrender made

Into the light that never more shall fade
Deep your contentment in that blest abode
Who wait the last clear trumpet-call of God

Long years ago as earth lay dark and still
Rose a loud cry upon a lonely hill
While in the frailty of our human clay
Christ our Redeemer passed the self-same way

Still stands His cross from that dread hour to this
Like some bright star above the dark abyss
Still through the veil the Victor's pitying eyes
Look down to bless our lesser Calvaries

These were His servants in His steps they trod
Following through death the martyred Son of God
Victor He rose victorious too shall rise
They who have drunk His cup of sacrifice

O risen Lord O shepherd of our dead
Whose cross has bought them and whose staff has led
In glorious hope their proud and sorrowing land
Commits her children to Thy gracious hand

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

Chorus

**Lord God of Hosts Be with us yet
Lest we forget, Lest we forget**

**God of our fathers, Known of old
Lord of our far-flung battle line
Beneath whose awful hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine *Chorus***

**The tumult and the shouting dies
The captains and the kings depart**

Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice
An humble and a contrite heart *Chorus*

Far-called our navies melt away
On dune and headland sinks the fire
Lo all our pomp of yesterday
Is one with Nineveh and Tyre *Chorus*

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 - Gifts of Grace - Service

Do you know that the sport of tennis was mentioned in the Bible? Can anyone guess where? It's a story I'm sure you know well - when Joseph, one of the 12 sons of Jacob, served in the courts of Pharaoh. Sorry about the lame dad joke, but it was the best I could think of to introduce the idea of service in the next gift of Grace that Paul encourages us to exercise in Romans 12.

Also in reference to service, I'm a Navy chaplain so I serve in the military. It is my job to minister to those called to defend our nation at sea. I've actually just been on a retreat in Sydney with about 50 other defence chaplains, being encouraged to provide better pastoral care for our sailors, soldiers and aviators as they serve our nation. That is particularly pertinent today as we commemorate defence Sunday when we thank current personnel, remember those who have served and sacrificed, and support the work of Defence Force chaplains and their families.

As I mentioned, we've been looking at the gifts of grace in Romans 12 for the last couple of weeks. I need to keep emphasising that Romans 12 comes after the first eleven chapters of Romans, and that these really need to be read first. Romans 1 thru 11 explain how people are saved through faith in Jesus's death and resurrection paying the penalty for their sins, and Romans 12 on tells us how to live if we have that faith and salvation. So far we've looked at how Paul calls on Christians to prophesy and teach. This week we are looking at what most English Bibles translate as service, but some other translations translate as minister. As I've been discussing over the last two weeks, the gifts of grace that Paul talks about in Romans 12 are given to build up the church as one body in Christ.

As we consider Paul's injunction for those with the gift of service to serve, and consider our gifts of service, it helps to consider what Paul means by service. I honestly don't think he means tennis serves, or even military service (although there are a lot of Old Testament references to military service that use the equivalent word in Hebrew

- the language the older testament was written in.) Paul was writing in Greek, the language of the New Testament, and the word he used for service is the word from which we get the word deacon, which is Edith Mathew's title, and is sort of like an assistant minister. (Some documents call it lower in rank to a priest which is what I am, but I would never dare suggest that Edith is in any way less important than me!)

However, I don't think that Paul is talking about formal ordained ministry as a deacon, or at least, that's not all he means by service. To better understand what the New Testament means by service, I've looked at all the uses of the word to get an idea of the range of meanings, and then compared these with the context of Romans 12 to understand what Paul is getting at.

It's very significant that 1 Corinthians 12 tells us there are many varieties of service. The first use of service in the New Testament is in the story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10. Martha complained to Jesus that Mary wasn't helping her in her service, that is, in preparing a meal for Jesus, Mary and everyone else there. So that's one example of service, hospitality and preparing meals.

Other specific activities referred to as service include caring for widows, providing financial relief to other Christians and the ministry of reconciliation (or reuniting arguing parties). These examples of service aren't specifically Christian, that is, even non Christians do them, but in the context of Romans 12 they are focused on Christians and the church, supporting them in their struggles, resolving their difficulties and meeting their physical and financial needs. They are all ministries, or services we can do in this church.

Another usage of service is apostolic ministry or service - the things that the apostles, such as Peter and Paul, were sent to do: to proclaim Jesus Christ crucified, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything Jesus had commanded them. These

are all specifically Christian, but often are reserved for those who are specifically gifted and appointed, out ordained for these roles.

Overlapping the apostolic ministry is a ministry or service of the word. When the seven were appointed to ensure the Hellenistic widows weren't overlooked in the food distribution, the apostles appointed seven people who are sometimes called deacons to oversee the food distribution. This was so the apostles could focus on prayer and the ministry of word - preaching, explaining God's word and presumably leading Bible studies, and as Paul puts it in acts 20, testifying to the good news of God's grace. 1 Corinthians 12:3 (NIV) described it as speaking by the Spirit of God saying "Jesus is Lord,"

More generally, service, or ministries that Christians are called to are described as service to the Saints, manifestation of the spirit for the common good, saintly ministry, Christ's service. These don't tell us a lot about what these ministries are, but they did tell us the service is service to the Saints - that is, so Christians, that it is Christ's service, so that Christ somehow owns the ministries, that we somehow do them in his name for the Saints, and that service is a manifestation of the Holy spirit, and in fact show the holy spirit working in this world. Can you think of other forms of service that we could be doing that would show Christ or manifest the Holy Spirit in our Christian brothers and sisters lives? Other examples of Christian service that I have thought of include visiting the sick, practical help such as minor repairs around people's houses, gardening, dog walking, looking after houses and pets when owners are away.

By looking at all the examples throughout the New Testament, and the others we have thought of ourselves that might not be in the Bible, we see that Christian service, or ministry is very broad. It can broadly be defined as what Christians do to build up the body of faith, the church, for Christ in the power of the Holy spirit,

Just like teaching and prophesying, the wide variety of gifts that are called service means that there is no one singular gift of service, but

that there are many gifts, and every Christian may have one or more of the gifts. We have looked at service as a deacon, hospitality, preparing and sharing meals, providing financial or other material relief, reconciliation, apostolic ministry, service of the word, baptising, discipling, teaching, practical help, visiting the sick and so on, and I am sure there are at least one that you feel gifted to do, if not many.

Paul calls on all who have been saved to exercise these gifts to build up the church, and I really feel that the best way to discern if you have a particular gift is to try to exercise it. If you have a gift, people will generally affirm the gift when you exercise it, and if they don't, you may need to decide whether you simply need to develop the gift, or whether your calling is perhaps in another direction. This is the case whether you are exercising general Christian gifts of service, or even the more specialised ones, such as deacons gifts or gifts of the word.

The important thing is that the Bible is calling you to discern and exercise whatever gifts you have so that Christ's body of believers, the church, is built up.

Will you seek to build up Christ's body by discerning and exercising your gifts? I am sure that your Christian brothers and sisters will help you both discern the need for specific gifts for you to exercise, as well as help you discern whether your particular gifts as you seek to exercise them.