

Cooma Anglican 8 February 2026 2nd Order 1st Thanksgiving APBA

Welcome

Hymn - TIS 449 Stand up, and bless the Lord

Stand up, and bless the Lord, Ye people of His choice;
Stand up, and bless the Lord your God
With heart, and soul, and voice.

Though high above all praise, Above all blessing high,
Who would not fear His holy Name,
And laud and magnify?

Oh, for the living flame, From His own altar brought,
To touch our lips, our mind inspire,
And wing to heav'n, our thought.

God is our strength and song, And His salvation ours;
Then be His love, in Christ proclaim'd
With all our ransom'd powers.

Stand up, and bless the Lord, The Lord your God adore;
Stand up, and bless His glorious Name
Henceforth for evermore.

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

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." John 11:41-42

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

Father of all, who gave your only begotten son to take upon himself the form of a servant and to be obedient even to death on a cross; give us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, that, sharing in his humility, we come to be with him in his glory, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

The Ministry of the Word

Daniel 12:1-7

¹“At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. ² Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. ⁴ But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.”

⁵ Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank. ⁶ One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?” ⁷ The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, “It will be for a time, times and half a time. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed.”

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

Psalms 103:1-18

¹ Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

² **Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—**

³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

⁴ **who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,**

⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶ **The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.**

⁷ He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:

⁸ **The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.**

⁹ He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;

¹⁰ **he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;

¹² **as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³ As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

¹⁴ **for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.**

¹⁵ The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field;

¹⁶ **the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.**

¹⁷ But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children —

¹⁸ **with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

John 11:1-44

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

¹ Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." ⁴ When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, ⁷ and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." ⁸ "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. ¹⁰ It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."

¹¹ After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." ¹² His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." ¹³ Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. ¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

¹⁶ Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

²⁴ Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.” ²⁸ After she had said this, she went

back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.

³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ “Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” ³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.” ⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.” John 11:1-44

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

Sermon - Raising Lazarus

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.

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.

We are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. 1 John 3:2-3

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.

The Confession

Knowing the goodness of God and our failure to respond with love and obedience, let us confess our sins, saying together

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.**

The 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 598 - Dear Father, Lord of humankind

**Dear Father, Lord of humankind, Forgive our foolish ways
Reclothe us in our rightful mind, In purer lives Thy service find
In deeper reverence praise, In deeper reverence praise**

**In simple trust like theirs who heard, Beside the Syrian sea
The gracious calling of the Lord, Let us like them without a word
Rise up and follow Thee, Rise up and follow Thee**

**O Sabbath rest by Galilee, O calm of hills above
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee the silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love, Interpreted by love**

**Drop Thy still dews of quietness, Till all our strivings cease
Take from our souls the strain and stress, And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace, The beauty of Thy peace**

**Breathe through the heats of our desire, Thy coolness and Thy balm
Let sense be dumb let flesh retire, Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire
O still small voice of calm, O still small voice of calm.**

Prayer for the 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 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.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power

of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin, and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

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 power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus 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 given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded: proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect

and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

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

As this broken bread was once many grains, which have been gathered together and made one bread: so may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

The gifts of God for the people of God

The Communion

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 687 God gives us a future

God gives us a future, daring us to go

Into dreams and dangers, on a path unknown
We will face tomorrow with the Spirit's power
We will let God change us, for new life starts now.

We must leave behind us sins of yesterday
For God's new beginning is a better way
Fear and doubt and habit must not hold us back
God gives hope and insight and the strength we lack.

Holy Spirit teach us how to read the signs
How to meet the challenge of our troubled times
Love us into action stir us into prayer
Till we choose God's life and find our future there

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 - Raising Lazarus - John 11:1-42

How would you feel if you had a serious illness, one that you were told that you might not survive the night, and you rang me for some pastoral care. Now imagine that the only response from me was that things were a bit busy at the moment, so would it be ok if I saw you in four days? Well, that's kind of what Jesus did in our gospel today.

We do live in a busy world. We have to make priorities. Those in ministry in particular need to work to priorities and never please everyone. Someone will always think that their needs should be your top priority and are greater than your own needs for time out and your need to attend to the strategic picture and even necessary administration and everything that needs to be done in ministry. But today I want to consider what Jesus made his priority in his situation. I want to consider what his priority says for our priorities, but more importantly, for what it says about God's priority, and how we fit into that.

Jesus's priorities

First, I have noticed three priorities that Jesus considered, The first priority considered (but not necessarily the highest) was to provide pastoral care to his dear friends Mary and Martha. The passage makes it clear that Mary, Martha, and Lazarus had a very close relationship with Jesus. We are told that Mary showed her love by anointing Jesus's feet with perfume and washing them with her tears. We know also that Mary and Martha had invited Jesus for a meal in Luke chapter 10, which Martha diligently prepared while Mary sat at Jesus's feet and listened to him. They were very close.

In addition to those examples, the language in today's reading really emphasises the closeness of their relationship: first it says that Jesus loved Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Mary and Martha understood this affection that Jesus had for Lazarus because when they sent for him, all they had to say was that the one he loved was sick. Also, when Jesus finally does make his way to the family home, the grieving Martha leaves all the family and friends to rush out to meet Jesus before he comes in. Martha fetches Mary and sends her out to Jesus, and again, despite all the family and friends, she goes quickly. John tells us that Jesus was deeply moved in spirit and troubled when he spoke with Mary about Lazarus. Verse 35 tells us Jesus wept, and his affection, his love was so obvious to those around that they exclaimed: "See how he loved him!"

Certainly one of the things Jesus wanted to do was to comfort his beloved friends over the death of their brother, and he does make the short journey, at least in part to do this. But it's not his highest priority.

The guys discussed this in our Bible study group on Wednesday night, and we all wondered why Jesus had this much emotion for his friend when he knew that he would raise him from death just a few moments later. He certainly didn't appear to care that much about things when he deliberately delayed going so that he wouldn't arrive until he had been dead for 4 days. If he had left as soon as he had got the news he could have arrived in half a day or so, but it seems he just sat back on his heels and waited until there could be no doubt that Lazarus was dead. Apparently there was a belief that it took the soul for days to completely leave the body, and so by the time Jesus got there there could be no hope of revival.

It seems that another of Jesus' priorities was to avoid getting himself killed, at least not just yet. When he finally decided the time was right to leave, his disciples said "But Rabbi, a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?" He gives a rather strange response "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."

I'm not exactly clear what he is saying here, but I think the hours of daylight he is talking about are the hours he has left before his crucifixion. He has to do what we had to do on this earth during that time, and that includes raising Lazarus from the dead to show that he had power over death, the final enemy. By saying that people stumble in the darkness when they have no light, he is likely suggesting that people may stumble if they do not understand he has power over death, and may miss out on the eternal life he offers if he doesn't make this clear before his crucifixion.

These desires: to comfort his friends and to stay alive until the time was right, were two of his priorities, but a third priority takes precedence for Jesus. Jesus said that Lazarus died "for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." Despite Jesus's love for Lazarus and his affection for Mary and Martha, Jesus intentionally let Lazarus die before he got there. Undoubtedly, Jesus could have healed Lazarus, prevented him from dying with a simple but powerful prayer. He certainly did that when he healed the official's son at Capernaum at John 4. He even healed the official's son, who was close to death, from a distance, so he didn't even need to go to Lazarus to save him.

Jesus could have done that, but he chose not to. Verses 5 and 6 say that Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 'So' when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days. If you had called me for pastoral care, you might have thought that if I cared for you I would rush to be with

you, particularly if by coming I might have been able to save you from death. But because Jesus loved them, he did not rush to be with them. It is possibly translated yet - he loved them, yet he waited, but, either way, he did wait.

Jesus explains "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." It would have been nice to comfort the sisters through the dying process, to give them the assurance Lazarus would rise. But obviously for Jesus, there was something more important than giving this comfort. He tells this in verse 14 when he told his disciples plainly, "Lazarus is dead, 15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe."

It was more important that his disciples, and Mary and Martha, believe. It seems that Mary did have some belief: she said to Jesus: "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." Like the blind man we read about a couple of weeks ago, Mary believed with her heart, and confessed with her mouth, but Jesus wanted more for her and her sister. Jesus wanted them to fully understand that not only would their brother will rise again in the resurrection at the last day, he wanted them to know and understand that he, Jesus, is the resurrection and the life; that the one who believes in him will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in him will never die.

Mary knew from the Old Testament that at the last days, those who have died will be raised. Our Old Testament reading from Daniel said: "Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt." In our Psalm we also read that "the LORD God forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, and who redeems your life from the pit." The dead will indeed rise at the last day, but this was too remote to be much of a comfort to Mary when her brother had just died.

But Jesus wanted her to know more than this. He wanted all his disciples, including Mary, Martha, doubting Thomas and every one of his disciples here today that he himself is the resurrection and the life. Death had infiltrated the world since Adam and Eve first sinned by eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and would continue to infiltrate the world until it was truly defeated, and shown to be defeated.

Like Paul in our New Testament reading, Jesus wanted Mary and Martha to believe that at the last days, God will bring with Jesus those, like Lazarus, who have fallen asleep in him.

Paul explains that at the last days, according to the Lord's word, Christians who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. Jesus himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, those who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so all who have faith in Jesus will be with the Lord forever.

Jesus could have encouraged Mary and Martha and his other disciples by preventing Lazarus from dying, from healing whatever infirmity afflicted him before he died of it. Healing Lazarus in that way, as he had healed the official's son in John 4 would certainly have been a comfort, and a demonstration of his power. But Jesus loved Mary and Martha so much that he wanted more, he wanted them to know that he was the resurrection and the life, and that he could bring about their resurrection and eternal life. He wanted them to understand that just as he has the power and authority to raise Lazarus temporarily back to life, so he wanted them to know that he would bring all who have faith in him permanently back to life, to eternal life.

He wanted them to know that he had come to destroy death, to completely defeat its hold on us. He showed he had power over death by raising Lazarus, but to completely defeat death he had to fulfil God's plan. He could control death, but to completely defeat death he had to remove the reason for death's very existence. The penalty for the sin for which was death had to be paid.

While Jesus was in the presence of death at Lazarus's tomb, he was emotionally distraught. It says he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled, he wept. He was deeply moved. He was in the presence of death which had held his creation in bondage since the beginning. He hated it and the way it enslaved his people, and stood between them and his loving father. and he would have to take it on himself and be forsaken of his father for a time that his creation might be freed from it.

Jesus desperately wanted to comfort Mary and Martha in their brother's death, but his highest priority was to encourage them to eternal life. And so, in front of the open tomb, and tomb just like the one he would shortly experience, he cries out to God: "Father" he prays, , "I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

Jesus's highest priority was that people would believe in him and gain the eternal life that he had come to earth to give, and so when he had prayed that, he called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face, and Jesus said "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

I do not want us to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. Through Jesus we have real hope, the hope of the resurrection from death into eternal life.

This was Jesus's highest priority, the reason he came into this world.

Therefore, like Paul, let's encourage one another with these words that we also find in the apostle's creed..