

## Cooma Anglican 8 March 2026 2nd Order 1st Thanksgiving APBA

### Welcome

#### Hymn - TIS 583 - Take up your cross the Savior said

Take up your cross the Savior said  
If you would my disciple be  
Take up your cross with willing heart  
And humbly follow after Me

Take up your cross let not its weight  
Fill your weak spirit with alarm  
His strength shall bear your spirit up  
And brace your heart and nerve your arm

Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,  
and let your foolish pride be still,  
your Lord refused not even to die  
upon a cross, on Calvary's hill

Take up your cross, the, in his strength  
and calmly every danger brave;  
it guides you to a better home  
and leads to victory over the grave.

Take up your cross and follow Christ  
Nor think it death to lay it down  
For only those who bear the cross  
May hope to win the glorious crown

### 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 our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. Philippians 3:20-21

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

Lord our God, as living temples of your love, write your commandment upon our hearts and grant us the wisdom and power of the cross so that, cleansed from greed and selfishness, we may eagerly await our Saviour from heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. through Jesus Christ our Lord

**Amen**

### The Ministry of the Word

#### Jeremiah 9:23-26 (NIV)

<sup>23</sup> This is what the LORD says: “Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, <sup>24</sup> but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the LORD.

<sup>25</sup> “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will punish all who are circumcised only in the flesh — <sup>26</sup> Egypt, Judah, Edom, Ammon, Moab and all who live in the wilderness in distant places. For all these nations are really uncircumcised, and even the whole house of Israel is uncircumcised in heart. ”

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

#### Psalms 73:12-28 (NIV)

<sup>12</sup> This is what the wicked are like—always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.

<sup>13</sup> **Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence.**

<sup>14</sup> All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments.

<sup>15</sup> **If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children.**

<sup>16</sup> When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply

<sup>17</sup> **till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.**

<sup>18</sup> Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin.

<sup>19</sup> **How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors!**

<sup>20</sup> They are like a dream when one awakes; when you arise, Lord, you will despise them as fantasies.

<sup>21</sup> **When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered,**

<sup>22</sup> I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.

<sup>23</sup> **Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.**

<sup>24</sup> You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.

<sup>25</sup> **Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.**

<sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

<sup>27</sup> **Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.**

<sup>28</sup> **But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.**

## Philippians 3 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. <sup>2</sup> Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. <sup>3</sup> For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— <sup>4</sup> though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

<sup>7</sup> But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. <sup>16</sup> Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

<sup>17</sup> Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. <sup>18</sup> For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup> Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

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

## John 7:16-24 (NIV)

### Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

<sup>16</sup> Jesus answered, “My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. <sup>17</sup> Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. <sup>18</sup> Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth;

there is nothing false about him. <sup>19</sup> Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?"

<sup>20</sup> "You are demon-possessed," the crowd answered. "Who is trying to kill you?"

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them, "I did one miracle, and you are all amazed. <sup>22</sup> Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a boy on the Sabbath. <sup>23</sup> Now if a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing a man's whole body on the Sabbath? <sup>24</sup> Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly."

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

## Sermon - Confidence for Salvation

### The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God of true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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 407 - Breathe on me breath of God**

**Breathe on me breath of God, Fill me with life anew  
That I may love what Thou dost love  
And do what Thou wouldst do**

**Breathe on me breath of God, until my heart is pure  
Until with Thee I will one will  
To do and to endure**

**Breathe on me breath of God, Till I am wholly Thine  
Till all this earthly part of me  
Glows with Thy fire divine**

**Breathe on me breath of God So shall I never die  
But live with Thee the perfect life  
Of Thine eternity**

### **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 547 Be Thou my Vision

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art  
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord  
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son  
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

Be thou my armour, my sword for the fight,  
be thou my dignity, thou my delight  
thou my souls shelter and thou my high tower  
raise thou me heavenward, my treasure thou art.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

### 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 - Having Confidence for Salvation - Philippians 3**

Have you ever been told that you don't have enough confidence? People often say this when they are telling you to have more confidence in yourself - that you can do whatever needs doing, or get that promotion or win that race. But many things in this life are not wholly dependent on you. What if your lack of confidence in yourself is actually justified? What if you simply do not have the skill, the strength or other qualities to achieve what you wanted?

It is easy to put your confidence in the wrong things, but it is also easy to not give enough attention to the right things. Paul talks about both of these dangers in our reading today.

### **Do not put your confidence in the wrong things**

This first thing Paul talks about in this passage is not something that most people worry about today - circumcision - or surgically removing male' foreskins. Way back in *Genesis 17*, God commanded that circumcision would signify the covenant between God and Abraham, and that every eight day old Jewish boy was to be circumcised as a sign of that covenant. *Exodus 12* also tells us that non-Jewish men could be circumcised and eat the Passover, and so it became the defining feature of Jews, almost synonymous with being a Jew and being God's people. This led many Jews to put their confidence in circumcision, figuratively in the flesh. They felt that provided they were circumcised, they didn't have to worry about a right relationship with God. The problem was, they hadn't read the rest of their scriptures, where God said that circumcision was not enough. *Deuteronomy 10:6* says that The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live. In other words, being physically circumcised is nothing. What is important is loving God with all your heart and with all your soul, and God actually does that in you by circumcising your heart. Our Old Testament reading from *Jeremiah 9:25* goes even further, it warns that the days are coming when God will punish all who are only circumcised in the flesh. It is no protection, and you cannot put your confidence in it to avoid God's judgement.

Paul tells the Philippians that circumcision isn't the only thing that they shouldn't put their confidence in. He was circumcised as an 8 year old baby, but it gives him no confidence. He was one of the people of Israel, even being able to trace his ancestry through the patriarch Benjamin, right back to Abraham himself, but it gives him no confidence. He is a Hebrew of Hebrews: both ancestrally and culturally a Jew, speaking Hebrew and able to read God's word

in it, he was the best example of someone who attempted to attain righteousness by trying to keep the law, but it gives him no confidence. With regards to the law, he was a Pharisee, the group who were renowned for keeping the minutiae of the law, but it gave him no confidence.

He was so zealous, so committed to his faith that he actively persecuted the church, but it gave him no confidence. And not only was he so zealous for these things, in human terms he was successful, his righteousness based on the law was faultless, but this too did not give him confidence.

Many around Paul would have seen these as the ideal credentials for demonstrating Paul's faith, his right relationship with God, and many would have loved to have been able to imitate Paul in them, just as many today put their confidence in similar attributes today. How many people do you know who have confidence in being born into a Christian country? of Christian parents? Of notional membership of a particular church? Of occasional attendance at church (at least most Christmases and Easters?) Of being baptised as a baby? Of having a level of morality just slightly better than the average, or perhaps, at least in their eyes, their good deeds slightly outweighing their bad? These sorts of things gave Paul no confidence, and they should not give anyone else confidence in their salvation either!

In fact, not only do these sorts of things not give Paul confidence, he sees them as impediments to his faith. He sees them as loss, as garbage, only worth throwing to dogs, rubbish, or literally dung, at least when compared to knowing Jesus Christ his Lord. Paul, sitting in gaol, having lost all his family and possessions, reflects how he has lost everything in order to gain Christ, and it hasn't upset him one iota. We is even glad that he has lost them in order to gain Christ and be found in him, with a righteous that comes through faith in Christ, and that he knows Christ and the power of his resurrection, sharing in his sufferings, being like him in his death, that he may attain the resurrection from the dead.

The things that Paul has confidence in are his righteousness through faith in Christ, the power of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection, and Jesus's promise of resurrection for those found righteous through his death and resurrection paying the penalty for their sin.

We too, must only have confidence in Jesus for our eternal life. Nothing else, be it circumcision, ancestry, law keeping, zeal, righteousness under the law, Christian parents, family, membership of a particular church, baptism, church

attendance or even morality should give confidence, and should be seen as dung, impediments compared to knowing Christ. Where do you have your confidence?

### **Don't disregard important things**

It is important to see the way Paul changes the subject when he gets to verse 12. Up until now he has been talking about gaining salvation through Christ, but now he changes the subject to talk about how he responds to that salvation. Sure, he hasn't crossed over to eternal life, and in fact, this side of heaven isn't even nearly perfect, but he has confidence in that eternal life. Christ has made Paul his own, and Paul has to live in response to that new identity.

Paul has a lot to regret from his younger life, not the least the way that he persecuted the church, and so he forgets what is behind and strains forward to what lies ahead - eternal life in perfect relationship with God.

Christ, in dying and rising again, has paid for Paul's salvation, and Paul has to grasp hold of that, and set an example for all other Christians to follow, instead of them following earthly hedonists - people whose end is destruction, their god is their stomach, and who glory in their shame with mind set on earthly things. These people may be inside or outside the church, but they are not living in the light of eternal life. Perhaps they think that they are so sure of God's forgiveness that their sin doesn't matter any more, or perhaps they haven't understood how much God hates sin and just let it rule their lives. It seems these people didn't even have the excuse that Paul says some use in Romans 6:1 - sinning more that God's grace may abound?

In any case, Paul's answer is the same: How can we who died to sin still live in it? Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of God the Father, we too must walk in newness of life - we must seek to live now as we will in the new creation, set completely free from sin. We must consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus, not letting sin reign in our mortal bodies.

Today, God's word has shown us that we cannot put our confidence in the things of this world, in anything 'fleshly' for our salvation. We must only put our confidence in Jesus Christ, and the righteousness that comes through faith in him to attain the resurrection from the dead. Yet we must also respond rightly to the salvation he has bought for us, by imitating Paul, living with our citizenship in heaven, awaiting Jesus's return, when he will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body, dead to sin and alive to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen