

Cooma Anglican 3 May 2026 1st Order APBA

Welcome

Hymn TIS 147 - To God be the glory great things He hath done

To God be the glory great things He hath done;
So loved He the world that he gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in. *CHORUS*

CHORUS

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives. *CHORUS*

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our worship, when Jesus we see. *CHORUS*

Greeting

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Sentence of the Day

Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times! John 13:38

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

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

Prayer of the Day

We behold your glory in the love shown by your Son, lifted up on the cross and exalted on high: be glorified anew in the love we have for one another as disciples of the risen Lord Jesus, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

The Ministry of the Word

Zechariah 11:4-13 (NIV)

⁴ This is what the LORD my God says: “Shepherd the flock marked for slaughter. ⁵ Their buyers slaughter them and go unpunished. Those who sell them say, ‘Praise the LORD, I am rich!’ Their own shepherds do not spare them. ⁶ For I will no longer have pity on the people of the land,” declares the LORD. “I will give everyone into the hands of their neighbors and their king. They will devastate the land, and I will not rescue anyone from their hands.”

⁷ So I shepherded the flock marked for slaughter, particularly the oppressed of the flock. Then I took two staffs and called one Favor and the other Union, and I shepherded the flock.

⁸ In one month I got rid of the three shepherds. The flock detested me, and I grew weary of them ⁹ and said, “I will not be your shepherd. Let the dying die, and the perishing perish. Let those who are left eat one another’s flesh.”

¹⁰ Then I took my staff called Favor and broke it, revoking the covenant I had made with all the nations. ¹¹ It was revoked on that day, and so the oppressed of the flock who were watching me knew it was the word of the LORD.

¹² I told them, “If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it.” So they paid me thirty pieces of silver.

¹³ And the LORD said to me, “Throw it to the potter”—the handsome price at which they valued me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter at the house of the LORD.

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

Psalms 41 (NIV)

¹ Blessed are those who have regard for the weak; the LORD delivers them in times of trouble.

² **The LORD protects and preserves them—they are counted among the blessed in the land—he does not give them over to the desire of their foes.**

³ The LORD sustains them on their sickbed and restores them from their bed of illness.

⁴ **I said, “Have mercy on me, LORD; heal me, for I have sinned against you.”**

⁵ My enemies say of me in malice, “When will he die and his name perish?”

⁶ **When one of them comes to see me, he speaks falsely, while his heart gathers slander; then he goes out and spreads it around.**

⁷ All my enemies whisper together against me; they imagine the worst for me, saying,

⁸ **“A vile disease has afflicted him; he will never get up from the place where he lies.”**

⁹ Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me.

¹⁰ **But may you have mercy on me, LORD; raise me up, that I may repay them.**

¹¹ I know that you are pleased with me, for my enemy does not triumph over me.

¹² **Because of my integrity you uphold me and set me in your presence forever.**

¹³ **Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen.**

Ephesians 1:3-14 (NIV)

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the

creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment —to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

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

John 13:18-38 (NIV)

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

¹⁸ "I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: 'He who shared my bread has turned against me.'

¹⁹ "I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am. ²⁰ Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me."

²¹ After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me."

²² His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. ²³ One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. ²⁴ Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means."

²⁵ Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?"

²⁶ Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.

²⁷ As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

So Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly." ²⁸ But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. ²⁹ Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. ³⁰ As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

³¹ When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

³³ "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

³⁶ Simon Peter asked him, “Lord, where are you going?”

Jesus replied, “Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.”

³⁷ Peter asked, “Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.”

³⁸ Then Jesus answered, “Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!

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

Sermon - Letting Jesus Down - John 13:18-38

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.

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 483 - Lord, in the strength of grace

**What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear
What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer**

**Have we trials and temptations, Is there trouble anywhere
We should never be discouraged, Take it to the Lord in prayer
Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share
Jesus knows our every weakness, Take it to the Lord in prayer**

**Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care
Precious Savior still our refuge, Take it to the Lord in prayer
Do thy friends despise forsake thee, Take it to the Lord in prayer
In His arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there**

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 111 - You servants of God your Master proclaim

**You servants of God your Master proclaim
And publish abroad His wonderful name
The name all-victorious of Jesus extol
His kingdom is glorious He rules over all**

**God rules from on high almighty to save
And still He is nigh His presence we have
The great congregation His triumph shall sing
Ascribing salvation to Jesus our King**

**Salvation to God who sits on the throne
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim
Fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb**

**Then let us adore and give Him his right
All glory and power all wisdom and might
And honor and blessing with angels above
And thanks never-ceasing and infinite love**

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: Letting Jesus down? John 13:18-38

In case you have lost track of where we are in this sermon series, we had been working through the gospel of John, and with a bit of careful planning, we got to the narrative of the last supper on Maundy Thursday, the Thursday before Easter, the day we celebrate the inauguration of the Lord's Supper. We then jumped over the second half of chapter 13 through chapter 17, picking up with Jesus' arrest, crucifixion and resurrection for Good Friday and Easter. At that point I decided to continue to the end of John chapters 19 to 21, and chapter, and then go back to the chapters we skipped, which is where we are this week. If you want a copy of the preaching calendar, just let me know and I will email it to you.

In today's reading, Jesus foretells that 2 people will let him down, Judas and Peter.

Have you ever let someone down? Perhaps it was accidental - you had promised to give them a lift and you just completely forgot, or perhaps it was unavoidable - you promised something but circumstances changed and as much as you wanted to, you weren't able to do it. Perhaps it was deliberate - you never intended to meet some sought of expectation, but perhaps you weren't brave enough to let the people know. I have let people down in each of those ways, but I'm not brave enough to share them with you this morning.

We know how Peter and Judas would let down Jesus: Peter denied Jesus three times, and Judas basically sold out Jesus to his executioners, the religious hierarchy, for 30 pieces of silver. The first thing we read in our passage is that these events troubled Jesus in his spirit - they hurt Jesus. Letting someone down signified a breakdown in relationship, and Judas and Peter's relationship with Jesus was forever changed by the way they let him down.

Jesus denounced Judas's action in particularly harsh terms. Judas had been close to Jesus. He'd been with him since the start of his ministry, and been entrusted with keeping the disciple's finances in order. Now at Jesus's last supper, with the 12 disciples lying around the table, Judas was close enough for Jesus to hand him a piece of bread with gravy. Since John was immediately in front of Jesus, Judas was probably right behind him. Yet, despite this closeness, Jesus sees Judas's betrayal as the fulfillment of Psalm 41: ⁹ Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me. Psalms 41:9. Turning against him sounds bad enough, but it is literally "lifted his heel against me" - as if preparing to squash Jesus like a cockroach on a pathway.

Betraying Jesus was not a spur of the moment thought for Judas. We know that in the lead up to the Passover, Satan entered Judas, and he went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might

betray Jesus.⁵ They were delighted and agreed to give him money.⁶ He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present. Luke 22:3-6. Judas had probably been thinking this was for a while, but it may have been the waste he saw in Jesus being anointed with expensive perfume that pushed him over the edge.

Judas betraying Jesus wasn't also a spur of the moment thing for God either. Clearly it had been prophesied when the psalms and Zechariah were written, but was also part of God's eternal plan of salvation, the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, according to his plans which he put into place before the creation of the world, as Ephesians 1 teaches us.

John also tells us that Satan, the deceiver also had a role in Judas betraying Jesus. Satan entered Judas as soon as he took the bread that Jesus gave him.

However, neither being part of God's plan, nor the involvement of Satan, took any responsibility away from Judas. Jesus told Judas "What you are about to do, do quickly." Judas accepted the money from the temple leaders and betrayed Jesus by leading the temple guards to him, and the scene was set for Jesus to be crucified to pay the price of the world's sin.

John tells us then it was night, and this was true in a literal sense, but also in the figurative sense. This gospel began with the triumphant words in John 1:5, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." And Jesus said in John 9:4, "We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work." There was a work they could do together while it was day. And they did for three years. Jesus completed that work. And now the night has come.

The disciples don't know what is going on at this point, but Jesus continues to talk about it in a strange way after Judas leaves. Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him.³² If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once." Have you ever thought of Jesus' arrest, crucifixion and death as glorifying Jesus? For many people, Jesus's death is a sign that he failed. Certainly for the disciples, it showed that he failed to throw out the Romans like they expected the Messiah to do. But even for people today, Jesus's death, the death of God the son, was a disgrace, an embarrassment, and should only mean that he failed and wasn't divine. They think his death defiled Jesus, but Jesus calls it his glorification. How can this be? Showing the glory of Jesus in John's Gospel is the main way that John awakens and strengthens our faith. John 1:14 says "We have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." And the brightest display of this glory — the glory of this grace — was in the darkest hour of the gospel when Jesus died.

Jesus is glorified when he does what no one else could do — dispelling darkness, abolishing death, disarming Satan, paying for sin, completing righteousness, absorbing wrath, removing condemnation — this was his most glorious achievement. In one sense, his brightest moment is the darkest night. So Jesus says in verse 31 that God was glorified in him. He also says in verse 32 that God himself is the one who glorified the Son of Man. So the Son of Man is glorified in God and God is glorified in him.

Immediately after Judas left the disciples, Jesus foretold that Peter would also let him down in a different way. Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, where are you going?", and Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later."³⁷ Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." and then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!

That was a bit of a harsh retort to Peter's confident statement of allegiance to Jesus - die for me? You can't even last a single night without denying you even know me - and you just do it one, you'll deny me three times! Peter's cry was of course Peter through and through. How often have we heard similar cries from Peter:

Even if everyone else falls away from you, I never will

"you shall never wash my feet." "Then, Lord, not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" John 13:8-9

And didn't Peter jump out of his family boat to follow Jesus,

Didn't he jump out his boat to walk to Jesus on the water,

Didn't Peter try to tell Jesus he couldn't be crucified and rise again,

Wasn't it Jesus who suggested pitching tents for Jesus, Moses and Elijah at the transfiguration

Wasn't it Peter who asked how many times he should forgive his brother

That very night, Peter told a mere slave girl "I am not one of this man Jesus's disciples." He told people around the fire "I am not one of his disciples", and, just before the cock crowed, didn't Peter tell one of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear he had cut off, that he hadn't been with Jesus in the garden.

Peter denied Jesus three times before the cock crowed, just as Jesus had foretold.

But wasn't it also Peter who told Jesus, "Who else would we follow, you have the words of eternal life"

And wasn't it Peter who told Jesus "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

God's eternal plan of salvation was coming to fulfilment. Peter's denials were in complete contrast to his confessions of faith, that Jesus is the Messiah and he only has the words of eternal life, and particularly Peter's claim that while all others might fall away, he would not.

Also, the outcomes that we know of for Judas and Peter were in complete contrast. We heard a couple of weeks ago how Peter repented and was reinstated by Jesus, going on to play a major role in the fledgling church. Judas, of course could not return the money he had been given and ended up taking his own life.

Today, we have heard how two people have let Jesus down. My prayer is that you will never let Jesus down, that you will never sell out God and the church for your own selfish gain, and that having committed to following Jesus, that you will never deny Jesus in the way Peter did. The reality is that even the most fervent of Christians today can betray and deny Jesus in ways similar to the way that Judas and Peter did, if perhaps not as publicly as they did. How often have you put your own desires ahead of your financial contributions to the church - isn't that betrayal? How often in conversations with your work colleagues on Mondays about the weekend have you neglected to mention the most important thing you did, spending time with God's people worshipping and glorifying our almighty Father - isn't this tantamount to denying him? I'm sure you can think of other ways that you have betrayed and denied Christ - every one has.

Yet the message we heard of Peter's reinstatement a couple of weeks ago should give us comfort that forgiveness is available. Peter, despite denying Jesus three times, did not hinder God's eternal plan of salvation. The night that John said was there when Judas went to betray Jesus and lasted through his arrest, crucifixion and death turned to light when Jesus rose from the dead for our eternal life.

Jesus died and rose again for Peter, and he died and rose again for each of us who have betrayed and denied Jesus when we repent and accept the forgiveness Jesus has for us.

No matter how far you have fallen away, how much you have let Jesus down, Jesus died for your forgiveness. As Peter did, just believe and repent, and wait to see how God will use you to build his church, just as Peter did. As Peter was reinstated, so will you be.

Amen