

Cooma Anglican 10 May 2026 2nd Order 1st Thanksgiving + Confirmation

Welcome

Hymn - TIS 179 - Praise With Joy The World's Creator

Praise With Joy The World's Creator,
God Of Justice, Love, And Peace,
Source And End Of Human Knowledge,
Force Of Greatness Without Cease.
Celebrate The Maker's Glory,
Power To Rescue And Release.

Praise the Son Who Feeds The Hungry,
Frees The Captive, Finds The Lost,
Heals The Sick, Up-Sets Religion,
Fearless Both Of Fate And Cost.
Celebrate Christ's Constant Presence:
Friend And Stranger, Guest And Host.

Praise The Spirit Sent Among Us,
Liberating Truth From Pride,
Forging Bonds Where Race Or Gender,
Age Or Nation Dare Divide.
Celebrate The Spirit's Treasure:
Foolishness None Dare Deride.

Praise The Maker, Christ, And Spirit,
One God In Community,
Calling Christians To Embody
Oneness And Diversity.
Thus The World Shall Yet Believe,
When Shown Christ's Vibrant Unity.

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

Jesus said "If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. " John 14:15-17

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life: grant that we may walk in his way, rejoice in his truth, and share his risen life, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Confirmation Introduction

There is one Body and one Spirit;
there is one hope in God's call to us.
One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism,
one God and Father of all.

Baptism is the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ. When he had risen from the dead, he commanded his followers to go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Baptism with water signifies the cleansing from sin that Jesus' death makes possible, and the new life that God gives us through the Holy Spirit. In baptism, the promises of God are visibly signed and sealed for us. We are joined to Christ, and made members of his body, the Church universal.

Children and adults are baptised in response to God's all-embracing love. Believing adults come for baptism, and children are brought by parents and godparents who have responded to that love. Before the congregation, adult candidates and parents and godparents express their trust and commitment to the promises of God, and parents and godparents their intention to bring up their children in the faith and practise of the Church.

In confirmation those who have been previously baptised come to confirm their baptismal promises and to receive the laying on of the bishop's hand with prayer. We pray that those who are confirmed will be empowered by the Holy Spirit for the ministry and service to which God shall call them.

So we welcome you Amos Clemens, David Price and Zachary Kembrey, with your sponsors and families.

We give thanks for you, and pray that you may know God's love and faithfulness for ever.

Let us pray

Lord God, you created this world, and made us in your own image. Forgive us when we turn away from you.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy**

Lord God, through your Son you overcame evil and death. Rescue us from slavery to sin. Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord God, by your Spirit, you restore us to fellowship with you and with one another. Breathe your love and freedom into our lives.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you your sins, and keep you in life eternal.
Amen.

The Ministry of the Word

Joel 2:27-32 (NIV)

²⁸ "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. ²⁹ Even on

my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.³⁰ I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke.³¹ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.³² And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.

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

Psalm 51 (NIV)

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

² **Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.**

³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

⁴ **Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.**

⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

⁶ **Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.**

⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.**

⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

¹⁰ **Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.

¹⁴ **Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.**

¹⁵ Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶ **You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.**

¹⁷ My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

¹⁸ **May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem.**

¹⁹ **Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.**

Acts 19:1-7 (NIV)

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples² and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

³ So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?"

"John's baptism," they replied.

⁴ Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all.

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

John 15:15-31 (NIV)

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

¹⁵ “If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

²² Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”

²³ Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

²⁵ “All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

²⁸ “You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. ³⁰ I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, ³¹ but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

“Come now; let us leave.

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

Sermon - The Holy Spirit

The Confirmation

We welcome those who are to be confirmed. I invite their sponsors to present them now.

[Sponsors] We present Amos, David and Zachary to be confirmed.

Before God and this congregation, you must affirm that you turn to Christ and reject all that is evil:

Do you turn to Christ?

[Candidates] I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

[Candidates] I repent of my sins.

Do you reject selfish living, and all that is false and unjust?

[Candidates] I reject them all.

Do you renounce Satan and all evil?

[Candidates] I renounce all that is evil.

Almighty God, deliver you from the powers of darkness, and lead you in the light of Christ to his everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

Will you each, by God's grace, strive to live as a disciple of Christ, loving God with your whole heart, and your neighbour as yourself, until your life's end?

[Candidates] I will, with God's help.

You have heard these our brothers respond to Christ. Will you support them in this calling? **We will.**

Let us pray for those who have affirmed their baptism and are to receive the laying on of hands.

Merciful God, deliver them from all evil that they may walk in truth and life.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Open their hearts by your Holy Spirit to your grace and truth.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Send them into the world to witness to your love and justice:

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Bring them and us all into the fullness of your peace and glory:

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Our help is in the name of the Lord **who made heaven and earth.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord **now and forever. Amen**

Almighty and everliving God, You have given your servants new birth by water and the Spirit. Strengthen them, we pray, with the Holy Spirit that they may grow in grace.

Increase in them: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of discernment and inner strength, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and fill them in wonder and awe at your presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

I ask everyone here who has faith in Christ to now to affirm as yours the faith of the Church.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in God the Son?

I believe Jesus Christ, God's only Son, Who was conceived of 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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

This is the faith of the Church

This is our faith: We believe in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Bishop says to each candidate

Strengthen O Lord, your servant *name*, with your Holy Spirit.

Empower and sustain him for your service. **Amen**

Defend O Lord, these your servants with your heavenly grace, that they may continue yours forever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit, more and more until they come to your everlasting kingdom. Amen

Almighty and everliving God, watch over these your servants upon whom we have now laid our hands. Let your Holy Spirit always be with them and lead them to know and obey your word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.

The Greeting of the 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 145 - the King of Love my shepherd is

The King of love my Shepherd is

Whose goodness faileth never

I nothing lack if I am His

And He is mine forever

Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul He leadeth
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed
But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid
And home rejoicing brought me

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With Thee dear Lord beside me
Thy rod and staff my comfort still
Thy cross before to guide me

Thou spread'st a table in my sight
Thy unction grace bestoweth
And O what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth

And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never
Good Shepherd may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever.

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 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.**

Loving God, we thank you for this world of wonder and delight. You have given it to us to care for, so that all your creatures may enjoy its bounty.

Lord our God **We give you thanks and praise.**

We thank you that when we turned away from you, you sent Jesus to live and work as one of us, and bring us back to you. He showed us how to love you and set us free to love and serve one another.

Lord our God **we give you thanks and praise.**

We thank you that on the cross Jesus took away our sin, all that keeps us from each other and from you. He frees us from hate and fear, from all that destroys love and trust. Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

And so with everyone who believes in you, with all the saints and angels, we rejoice and praise you, saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

And now we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine; may we who receive them, as Jesus said, share his body and his blood. On the night he was betrayed, he took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said, 'Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup and gave you thanks. He shared the cup with them and said, 'This is my blood poured out so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me.'

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

You have gathered us together to feed on Christ and to remember all he has done for us. Fill us with your Spirit that we may follow Jesus in all we do and say, working for justice and bringing your peace to this world that you have made. Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

We who are many are one body, **for we all share in the one bread.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

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.

The Communion

After Communion

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in confirmation, you confirm the baptism in which you make us one family in Christ your Son, one in the sharing of his body and his blood, one in the communion of his Spirit. Help us to grow in love for one another and come to the full maturity of the body of Christ.

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

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

Notices

Dismissal

All who have been baptised and confirmed are called to study the Bible, take part in the life of the church, to share in the Holy Communion, and to pray faithfully and regularly. We are called to share with others, by word and example, the love of Christ and his gospel of reconciliation and hope. We are called to love our neighbours as ourselves, to honour all people and to pray and work for peace and justice.

I invite you all to commit yourselves to this calling.

We will gladly do so, in the strength of the Holy Spirit.

Go forth into the world in peace, be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; give honour to all; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

Sermon - John 14 - The Holy Spirit

Introduction

I am so pleased that today our confirmation candidates - Amos, David and Zach have been sponsored by their mates. The guys have committed to supporting Amos, David and Zach in their Christian lives - by their prayers and example, by their friendship and love to encourage them in the life and faith of the Christian community. The guys have committed to help each other learn from God's word, to put their faith into practice in their lives, and to keep each other accountable - calling each other out if they notice sin in their lives or a risk of falling from the way. As we will see, it is not only the sponsors that promise to support our confirmees, our entire congregation will also commit to support them, but the centre of the confirmation is a prayer for the Lord to strengthen the confirmees with his Holy Spirit and to empower and sustain them for their Christian service.

So, it is not just human mates that will encourage our confirmees, we pray that the Holy Spirit, the third member of the Trinity will strengthen and encourage them as well..

Our readings today tell us a lot about the Holy Spirit, and so, before we pray that the Holy Spirit will strengthen our confirmees, I will talk about who the Holy Spirit is, and what the Holy Spirit does.

So, firstly, Who is the Holy Spirit?

In our gospel reading this morning, Jesus describes the Holy Spirit in the following way: *"If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.*

Then, later: *The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*

One of the first things I noticed is that Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as 'him', not 'it'. The world cannot accept **him**, because it neither sees **him** nor knows **him**. But you know **him**, for **he** lives with you. The use of the masculine pronoun is not about the Spirit's maleness, it is about the Spirit being a person. One of the definitions of person is "an individual being characterized by consciousness, rationality, and a moral sense.'

The Holy Spirit is not some impersonal force, or even a Ghost as we now think of ghosts, even though it is the term used in the King James Bible. He is a

person, with feelings, who can be sad or angry, and can be insulted and blasphemed against. ([Is 63:10](#); [Mt 12:31](#); [Ac 7:51](#); [Eph 4:30](#); [Heb 10:29](#)).

Jesus said that he will ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit, and that he will be sent in Jesus's name. This shows the closeness of the Trinity. The Father does what Jesus asks, and the Spirit is sent in Jesus's name, and so is one in purpose with Jesus, with the authority of Jesus. If you look for all the things the Bible says that the spirit does - be advocate, strengthen, convince and so on, these are all also things that Jesus does. Jesus and the Holy Spirit are very closely related.

Jesus calls him The Spirit of Truth. Just a few verses earlier, Jesus has described himself as the truth in verse 6, when he said that 'he is the way, the truth and the life;'. This is another strong link between Jesus and the Holy Spirit. As the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit communicates and guides all Christians into all truth. In particular, He teaches us all things and reminds us of everything Jesus has told us. This doesn't mean that the Holy Spirit teaches us, for example, the complexities of quantum mechanics, or even what Bp Mark had for breakfast this morning. When Jesus says 'all things' he clarifies it in the next phrase - reminding us of all the things that Jesus said and He helps us understand the significance of what Jesus did in dying and rising to life. We see this when the Holy Spirit comes on the day of Pentecost - Peter, who didn't really understand that Jesus was to die and rise again, stands up and preaches the Jesus's significance and how this meant that the hearers needed to repent and believe. And this is precisely what 3000 of his hearers did on that day, when the Holy Spirit came upon them.

Jesus also calls the Spirit 'another Advocate.' He is another advocate because Jesus is an advocate as 1 John 2:1 tells us: we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. The original word for advocate is literally 'one who is called alongside', and was sometimes used in courts of law for someone who stood beside the accused and coached them in what to say. Jesus stands beside us when we stand before God on judgement day, and the Holy Spirit stands beside us throughout our Christian lives, reminding us of everything Jesus said to teach us what to say and how to live as Christians.

Jesus says the Holy Spirit is only known by Christians, by people who love Jesus and keep his commands. The rest of the world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. Only Christians **know him**, because the Holy Spirit is specifically for God's people, people who are to, or have put their faith in Jesus's death and resurrection for their eternal life. Those who don't love

Jesus cannot know the Spirit. They cannot have the relationship with the Spirit that all Christians do.

Nevertheless, the Spirit does have a role with unbelievers, with the world. John 16:8-11 says that When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ about sin, because people do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because Jesus has gone to the Father, where we can see me no longer; ¹¹ and about judgment, because the prince of this world (that is Satan) now stands condemned. The Spirit works in non-Christians to help them become Christians - by convicting them of their sin, convincing them of the forgiveness they can have through Jesus and the righteousness he gives them in the final judgement.

The final thing I want to say about the Holy Spirit is that he lives in Christians, in those who have put their faith in Jesus's death and resurrection for their eternal life. He is with us, and in us. Jesus had to leave this world to go be with the Father, but he sent the Holy Spirit to Christians so we are not alone. He is in us to teach us all things, and most importantly, how to love Jesus.

He is in us, pleading, arguing, convincing, instructing and reminding us of Christ. He also strengthens us, empowers and gives us gifts and grows fruit in us. 2 Timothy 1:7 says For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. And Galatians 5:22-23 tells us ²² the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control.

This is the Holy Spirit we will shortly pray to strengthen Amos, David and Zach. The things that the Spirit does are also the things that their Sponsors, their mates have promised to do. They have promised to support Amos, David and Zach in their Christians lives by encouragement and prayer, in a similar way to the way the Holy Spirit does, but their efforts are inevitably limited, even though I know that they will try, and through God's grace will be great support and encouragement.

Even so, the confirmees' mates are limited because they are not always with Amos, David and Zach.

They are limited because they are fallible human beings who also waver and sin.

They are limited because they sometimes don't notice when their mates are struggling or not walking with Christ as they should, and cannot fully hold them to account.

They are limited because they don't know the confirmees well enough, and so they can't convince them authoritatively without knowing how best to motivate them.

That is why Jesus asked the Father to send the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is always with Christians - he is always with them and in them.

The Holy Spirit is the divine third person in the Trinity - he is completely united in purpose with the Father and Jesus

Because he is in us, the Holy Spirit knows us perfectly. He knows whenever we falter or are tempted to walk away from God. Whenever we sin, the Holy Spirit fully holds us to account.

The Holy Spirit works through our hearts and minds, motivating and convincing us to keep following Jesus.

Despite the great job that their Christian mates will do, Amos, David and Zach do not have to fully rely on them. We will pray that God the Holy Spirit will strengthen and keep them in their faith, in keeping the promises for themselves that were made at their baptisms, and ultimately to persevere until they go to be with all the saints in heaven, either through their death or when Jesus, their Lord and saviour, returns to bring about the end of history and the establish of their perfect eternal life, in the many roomed mansion he has been preparing for them, the perfectly restored creation, the new heaven and earth, in perfect relationship with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with all of creation, and with us and all the saints who with them, through the Holy Spirit, have repented and believed and put their faith in Jesus's death and resurrection.

Please pray for Amos, David and Zach, and for their sponsors as they live out their Christians lives in faith to this glorious end.

Amen