

Cooma Anglican 13 September 2026 2nd Order 1st Thanksgiving APBA

Welcome

Hymn - TIS 111 - Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation.
Come all who hear, brothers and sisters draw near,
praise him in glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord who in all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining:
have you not seen, all that is needed has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?**

**Praise to the Lord, who will prosper our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend us:
ponder anew what the Almighty can do
as with his love he befriends us.**

**Praise to the Lord, who when darkness of sin is abounding,
who, when the godless do triumph, our best hopes confounding.
sheds forth his light, scatters the horrors of night,
saints with his mercy surrounding.**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen sound from his people again:
gladly for ever adore him.**

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

I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. Revelation 3:11

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

O God, without you we are unable to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Ministry of the Word

Isaiah 22:15-22

¹⁵ This is what the Lord, the LORD Almighty, says: “Go, say to this steward, to Shebna the palace administrator: ¹⁶ What are you doing here and who gave you permission to cut out a grave for yourself here, hewing your grave on the height and chiseling your resting place in the rock? ¹⁷ “Beware, the LORD is about to take firm hold of you and hurl you away, you mighty man. ¹⁸ He will roll you up tightly like a ball and throw you into a large country. There you will die and there the chariots you were so proud of will become a disgrace to your master’s house. ¹⁹ I will depose you from your office, and you will be ousted from your position.

²⁰ “In that day I will summon my servant, Eliakim son of Hilkiah. ²¹ I will clothe him with your robe and fasten your sash around him and hand your authority over to him. He will be a father to those who live in Jerusalem and to the people of Judah. ²² I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

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

Psalm 118:8-24 (NIV)

⁸ It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in humans.

⁹ **It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.**

¹⁰ All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the LORD I cut them down.

¹¹ **They surrounded me on every side, but in the name of the LORD I cut them down.**

¹² They swarmed around me like bees, but they were consumed as quickly as burning thorns; in the name of the LORD I cut them down.

¹³ **I was pushed back and about to fall, but the LORD helped me.**

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.

¹⁵ **Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: “The LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!**

¹⁶ The LORD’s right hand is lifted high; the LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!”

¹⁷ **I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.**

¹⁸ The LORD has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death.

¹⁹ **Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter.

²¹ **I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.**

²² The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

²³ **the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴ **The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.**

Revelation 3:7-13 (NIV)

⁷ “To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. ⁸ I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ⁹ I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹² The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. ¹³ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

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

Matthew 16:24 - 28 (NIV)

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

²⁸ “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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

Sermon - Revelation 3:7-13 - Letter to the church in Philadelphia

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 447 Lord, your almighty word

Lord, your almighty word, chaos and darkness heard, and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray, and where the gospel day,
sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light.

Saviour, who came to give, those who in darkness live healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind, sight to the inly blind,
now to all humankind, let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love, life-giving holy dove, speed forth your flight;
move on the waters' face, bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place, let there be light.

Holy and blessed Three, glorious Trinity, Wisdom, Love, Might,
boundless as ocean's tide, rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth far and wide, let there be light.

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 148 - All things praise you, Lord most high

All things praise you, Lord most high,
heaven and earth, and sea and sky;
all were for your glory made,
that your greatness thus displayed
should all worship bring to you:
so we praise you, Lord, anew.

All things praise you - night to night
sings in silent hymns of light:
all things praise you - day to day
hymns your power in burning ray;
time and space are praising you:
so we praise you, Lord, anew.

All things praise you: heaven's high shrine
rings with melody divine;
lowly bending at your feet,
seraph and archangel meet,
know their highest bliss to be
ever praising: so may we.

All things praise you, glorious Lord,
great Creator, powerful Word,
omnipresent Spirit, now
at your throne we humbly bow,
lift our hearts in praise to you:
so we praise you, Lord, anew.

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 - Revelation 3:7-13 - Letter to the church in Philadelphia

Introduction

Today we are at Jesus's sixth letter to a church in Asia, and haven't they been a mixed bag? Each have had their commendations, but most also had criticisms. The churches have been criticised for forsaking their first love, the love they had when the first put their faith in Jesus; to holding to the teaching of Balaam and the Nicolaitans, for tolerating and being misled by the false prophet Jezebel, and for being dead, never finishing in the sight of God. So far, the one that had the least criticism has been the letter to Smyrna - Jesus doesn't specifically criticise this church, but he does warn them that they are about to suffer, and some will be tested by being persecuted and put into prison. They are warned to be faithful, even to the point of death, and if they do they he will give them the visitors crown.

Today's letter to the church in Philadelphia is even more positive than the letter to Smyrna. There are no criticisms, and the only warning is to hold on to what they have or others will take their crown. Jesus also says a lot to commend the Philadelphians - they have patiently kept his word and his commands and not denied his name. Surely this is a church that we can learn from and try, in God's strength to emulate.

Philadelphia

Firstly, what do we know about the recipients of this letter?

Philadelphia is known today as Alayehir in modern Turkey. It was founded in the 2nd century BC by King Attalus II of Pergamon, who was known for his loyalty to his brother, which earned the city its name, which means "brotherly love." It was strategically situated on a major trade route and was known for its fertile soil and production of wine. The city was also prone to earthquakes, which led to frequent rebuilding efforts, which we see is significant shortly.

Jesus, the author of the letter

Unlike the previous letters, Jesus does not describe himself with images from chapter one, but calls himself holy and true. He is pure and true to his name Jesus - which means 'God Saves.' As with the other

letters, this is relevant to what he is calling the church - to be pure and true to its name - God's church, people gathered around God's name.

Jesus also says that he holds the key of David. This is an allusion to our Old Testament reading from Isaiah 22. Leading up to that point, Isaiah has been prophesying against the nations around Israel: , Cush, Egypt, Babylon, Edom and Arabia. Disaster is prophesied against each of these nations: Babylon will fall, Egypt and Cush would be captured and led away in shame, Babylon will fall, Edom will face ongoing night, and the splendor of Arabia will come to an end. Isaiah then comes to a prophecy about Jerusalem. The readers probably thought that after after the doom awaiting the nations who had persecuted Israel that Isaiah would prophecy blessing for Israel - but how wrong they were: the Lord, the Lord Almighty has a day of tumult and trampling and terror for them, a day of battering down walls and of crying out to the mountains. Isaiah 22:5 The lord tells Isaiah to go to the palace administrator, Shebna, who has abused his position by carving out for himself a choice gravesite, and tell him that the Lord will roll you up tightly like a ball and throw you into a large country. There you will die and there the chariots you were so proud of will become a disgrace to your master's house. The Lord I will depose him from your office, and he will be ousted from his position. Isaiah 22:18-19. In his place, the Lord will grant authority to Eliakim who will be a father to those who live in Jerusalem and to the people of Judah.²² The Lord will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. Isaiah 22:21-22 Does that sound familiar?

The key of David and an open door

In the letter to the Philadelphians, Jesus says he holds the key of David, and what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. Eliakim is a type, or model of Jesus, given the authority to open the gates of God's kingdom.

Jesus tells the Philadelphian church that he has put an open door before them that no one, except him, can shut. They are not strong enough to open the door for themselves, but Jesus will keep it open for

them because they have kept his word, they have not denied his name and they have kept his command to endure patiently. In effect, if they keep this up, they have a free run into the kingdom of God!

The Synagogue of Satan

This is in complete contrast to those Jesus calls the synagogue of Satan, a group of fake, untrue Jews who claim to be Jews but are liars, who will be forced to admit that God really does love the members of his church. They will fall down at their feet and acknowledge that Jesus really loves the true Christians.

What does it mean for Cooma Anglican to be like the Philadelphians?

Firstly, it doesn't matter how strong we are - either physically or mentally. The Philadelphians were weak, but Jesus commended them. In fact, Paul said he delighted in his own weakness in his 2nd letter to the Corinthians. He said I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:10) It is when we are powerless, that Jesus is powerful in us.

What meant everything to Jesus is that the Philadelphians kept his word and did not deny his name. Unlike the synagogue of Satan who claimed to be God's people but were in fact liars, with the Philadelphians, what they said was what you got. They claimed to have faith in Jesus, and that was what they had, and Jesus loved them for it as the so-called synagogue had to admit. We too need to truly have our faith in Jesus, and as the letter of James tells us, that faith needs to be truly reflected in our deeds.

We too need to hold on to the faith we have in Jesus. We cannot rely on our own deeds, and we cannot rely on our ancestry, our parents, the Christian school or church that we attended or that someone poured water on our heads when we were babies. Our faith needs to be that Jesus died and rose again for our sins, not that we are good enough to be acceptable to God. We need to keep Jesus's word and never deny his name, or as Jesus says in Matthew, whoever disowns him before others, he will disown before his father in heaven. Whoever persists in denying Jesus's name, he will close the door before us.

What are the consequences for the Philadelphians, and for us?

Jesus said that he has placed an open door before the Philadelphians. Just like our politicians keep reminding us that they have the authority over who enters Australia and under what terms, and as Shebnah was given the keys to the gates of Jerusalem, so does Jesus have the authority over whom that door of the Kingdom of God is open for, who is welcome into salvation with him.

The Bible tells us in Matthew, that when Jesus returns, he will sit on his glorious throne, and all the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Revelation 20 (which we won't get to before I finish up in Cooma) says more about this judgement, but Jesus tells the Philadelphians, and all who put their faith in his name, that he will keep them from this hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

The Philadelphians are told that because of their faith, because they do not deny Jesus's name, because of their patient endurance they will wear the victor's crown that will last forever. He says that they are the foundation of the church, as firm as the pillars had to be in earthquake prone Philadelphia. They, and we if we stay firm in him, will never leave God's kingdom, and we will wear God's name and the name of God's city, the new Jerusalem, and Jesus' secret new name that only his people will know.

Beware anyone who does not stand firm in him. The consequences are eternal.

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches, and to our church here in Cooma. Amen