

SUNDAY 04 October 2026 - St Paul's Cooma 9.30am - HC 2.5 and Baptism

Introduction

Hymn TIS 134 – Praise my soul the king of heaven

Praise, my soul, the king of heaven; to his feet your tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him, praise him, hallelujah, praise the everlasting king!

Praise him for his grace and favour to his people in distress;
praise him still the same for ever, slow to chide and swift to bless:
praise him, praise him, hallelujah, glorious in his faithfulness!

Father like he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes:
praise him, praise him, hallelujah, widely as his mercy flows!

Frail as summer's flower we flourish, blows the wind and it is gone;
but while mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on.
Praise him, praise him, hallelujah, praise the high eternal one!

Angels, help us to adore him, you behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space:
praise him, praise him, hallelujah, praise with us the God of grace!

Greeting

Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty **Who was, and is, and is to come.**

Sentence of the day

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”
Revelation 4:11

Baptism Introduction

This morning we welcome Oski, his family and his sponsors for Oski's baptism.

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.

We have come together today to obey that command.

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 are baptised in response to God's all-embracing love. Parents and godparents who have responded to that love come now to bring their children for baptism. Before this congregation they must express their own trust and commitment to the promises of God, and their intention to bring up their children in the faith and practice of the Church. In due time these children should make their own response to God, and be prepared for confirmation. In confirmation those who have been previously baptised come to confirm their baptismal promises and join with the other candidates to receive the laying on of the bishop's hand with prayer. We pray that those who are baptised and confirmed will be empowered by the Holy Spirit for the ministry and service to which God shall call them. So we welcome you, Oski, with parents, your family and sponsors. We give thanks for you, and pray that you may know God's love and faithfulness for ever.

Now, let us affirm our trust in God's mercy, and confess our need of forgiveness.

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.**

Prayer of the Day

Generous God, whose hand is open to fill all things living with plenteousness; make us ever thankful for your goodness, and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

Isaiah 6:1-5

¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³ And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴ At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

⁵ “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

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

Psalm 16 - A miktam of David.

¹ Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge.

² **I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.”**

³ I say of the holy people who are in the land, “They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight.”

⁴ **Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more. I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods or take up their names on my lips.**

⁵ LORD, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure.

⁶ **The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.**

⁷ I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.

⁸ **I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.**

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure,

¹⁰ **because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay.**

¹¹ **You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.**

Revelation 4:1-11

¹ After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” ² At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. ³ And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne. ⁴ Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. ⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. ⁶ Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. ⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. ⁸

Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:

“‘Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,’ who was, and is, and is to come.”

⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

¹¹ “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, chapter 16 beginning at verse 19

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores

²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

²² “The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

²⁵ “But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

²⁷ “He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

²⁹ “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

³⁰ “‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

³¹ “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

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

Sermon – In the Throne Room of God

The Presentation

We welcome Oski who comes to be baptised.

I invite his sponsors, to present him now.

[Sponsors] We present Oski to be baptised.

Will you accept the responsibilities placed upon you in bringing Oski for baptism?

[Sponsors] I will.

Are you willing to answer on behalf of Oski?

[Sponsors] I am.

By your own prayers and example, by your friendship and love, will you encourage Oski in the life and faith of the Christian community?

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

The Decision

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

[Sponsors] I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

[Sponsors] I repent of my sins.

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

[Sponsors] I reject them all.

Do you renounce Satan and all evil?

[Sponsors] 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?

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

You have heard Oski's sponsors respond to Christ on behalf of Oski.

Will you support them in this calling?

[Congregation] We will.

Let us pray

Grant, merciful God, that Oski may be so buried with Christ in baptism that the new nature may be raised up in him. May the fruit of your Spirit grow and flourish in him. **Amen.**

Give to Oski's parents and sponsors the desire to share with him what you have revealed in your holy gospel. **Amen.**

May he know Christ's forgiving love and continue in the fellowship and service of his Church. May he proclaim, by word and example, the good news of God in Christ. **Amen.**

We thank you for the ministry we have in your world and to each other in the household of faith. Hasten that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in Christ. **Amen.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks that at the beginning of creation your Holy Spirit moved upon the waters to bring forth light and life. With water you cleanse and replenish the earth; you nourish and sustain all living things. **Thanks be to God.**

We give you thanks that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery into freedom, and brought them through the river Jordan to new life in the land of promise. **Thanks be to God.**

We give you thanks for your Son Jesus Christ: for his baptism by John, for his anointing with the Holy Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

We give you thanks that through the deep waters of death Jesus delivered us from our sins and was raised to new life in triumph. **Thanks be to God.**

We give you thanks for the grace of the Holy Spirit who forms us in the likeness of Christ and leads us to proclaim your kingdom. **Thanks be to God.**

And now we give you thanks that you have called Oski to new birth in your Church through the waters of baptism. Pour out your Holy Spirit in blessing and sanctify this water so that those who are baptised in it may be made one with Christ in his death and resurrection. May they die to sin, rise to newness of life, and continue forever in Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we give you praise and honour in the unity of the Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Affirmation of Faith

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 Baptism

Oski, I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Oski, I sign you with the sign of the cross to show that you are marked as Christ's own forever. Live as a disciple of Christ: fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith.

Confess Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, look for his coming in glory.

God has brought you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father. [Present baptismal candle]

God has called you into his Church.

We therefore receive and welcome you as a member with us of the body of Christ, as a child of the one heavenly Father, and as an inheritor of the kingdom of God.

In baptism, God has made us one in Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

[Narelle] Prayer the the Baptism of a child

Merciful God,

in your infinite love you have made a new covenant with us in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, promising to be our God and the God of our children and their children.

Enable all who are baptised in your name to live as your covenant people. Fulfill your promises to Oski we pray, and grant that he may grow in your faith and service until his life's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Heavenly Father, we pray for Oski's parents; give them the spirit of wisdom and love. May their children grow up to love and reverence you, and may their family share in the joy of your eternal kingdom. Enable Oski's godparents to share with Iski what you have revealed to us in your holy gospel. We ask this in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Intercessions

Let us pray for the world and the church.

Response: Gracious God, 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.**

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 129 – Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound! That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come.
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright, shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise, Than when we first begun.

Prayer for Offertory

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.

After Communion

Father of all we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. **Keep us in this hope that we have grasped: so we and all your people will be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name.**

Hymn TIS 154 – Great is your faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be

Chorus: Great is Thy faithfulness, Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me

Summer and winter And springtime and harvest
Sun moon and stars In their courses above
Join with all nature In manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness Mercy and love [Chorus]

Pardon for sin And a peace that endureth
Thy own dear presence To cheer and to guide
Strength for today And bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine With ten thousand beside [Chorus]

Notices

Dismissal

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast 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.**

Cooma Anglican Sermon 4 October 2026 - Revelation 4 - What is heaven like?

What do you think heaven will be like?

Many in the world today will tell you that heaven is a fairy tale - that when you die, your personality just ceases to exist.

Others think when we die we will become angels in heaven, floating around on clouds, playing little harps.

Many Eastern religions believe when you die you keep reincarnating until you achieve some form of release - Moksha, Nirvana or a oneness with the universe.

Some people think it will be a purely spiritual or non-physical existence, others think we will have some form of new heavenly body - perhaps not chubby little cherubs with bows and arrows, but some form of perfect body that may or may not have some physical continuity with our earthy bodies.

More importantly to us, what does the Bible say heaven will be like?

Our gospel reading about Lazarus and the rich man suggests it will be a physical existence, very similar to, but specifically separate from, the world we live in now. Our psalm this morning describes the world to come as filled with joy, in God's presence, with eternal pleasures at our right hands - the ideal paradise, in the presence of God.

John 14 describes heaven as having many rooms, or mansions, that Jesus has gone to prepare for us.

Revelation 21 describes heaven as a new heaven and a new earth, with a new Jerusalem. Revelation 22 describes it as Eden restored, with a river of Life and the tree of Life bearing fruit continually.

And our Old Testament reading from Isaiah 1, and Revelation chapter 4, describes heaven as the throne room of God, where all creation worship him continually.

Today I want to tease out the image of heaven from Revelation 4 a little further, and give us a taste of what heaven will be like. I want to take you into the throne room of God, the ultimate outcome for all who trust Jesus for eternal life. So let's get started.

After writing out the letters from Jesus to the seven churches in Asia that we have been looking at for the last few weeks, John is shown a door standing open in heaven. He again hears the voice like a trumpet that had told him to write the letters to the churches, but this time Jesus says, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."

John was invited into heaven to see what is to come, the ultimate fulfilment of history. At once he was in the Spirit - some form of ecstatic trance or witnessing a vision, and there before him was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.

This 'someone' had the appearance of jasper and ruby, red precious stones, and a rainbow that shone like an emerald, a green precious stone, encircled the throne. God himself shines out a royal red, with the rainbow only highlighting this glory with a contrasting green, like all creation highlighting the glory of God. John also tells that from God's throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder.

In one of his sermons on this passage, Don Carson says that John is trying to *describe a God who is purer than the driven snow, who is more magnificent than the most stunning sunset, who is more entrancing than a million twinkling stars, who is more nourishing than the best of foods, whose love is firmer and yet more tender than that of the wisest and best of parents, who is more awesome than all the unleashed forces of nature.* John is not describing God in any way that would enable you to draw a picture, but he is using picture language that his readers could relate to: precious jewels, rainbows, lightning and thunder and so on to describe the radiance of an awesome God. Just think of God's majesty, not of how green, or red, or rainbow coloured he could be, or how dangerous things would be with the lightning all around.

John continues ⁴ *Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.* There are two schools of thought as to whom these 24 are. One is that they are elders of God's people, 24 representing the twelve tribes of Israel and twelve apostles. Another is that they are 24 angels. There are good arguments both ways, but I think that since the Bible is not clear, then the identity of these 24 is not that important - what is important is what they are doing, which we see down in verse 10: ¹⁰ *the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the*

throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: ¹¹ "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." They are continually worshipping the majestic God on the throne that he has just been trying to describe. Again, don't try to think about how the elders could be continually physically falling down to worship God without getting up in between, just think of the perfect worship they are giving God - how much they express their awe, God's worthiness, and their absolute praise of our awesome God. The whole point is that this is an indescribable majesty. Our visions of God are simply too small. Even the best of us and most experienced of us have only small glimpses of the majesty of this God.

In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. As I mentioned a couple of weeks ago, this is either the 7 separate spirits, or the 7 aspects of God's spirit.

And "In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. ⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. ⁸ Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty," who was, and is, and is to come."

Again, do not try to draw a picture of what the 4 creatures physically look like. You cannot draw 4 creatures with 6 wings, completely covered with eyes, that are like a lion, an ox, a man and a flying eagle. I know people have tried, but I am certainly not up to it, and it certainly isn't the point.

John is alluding to the creatures in Isaiah 6, our reading this morning, seraphim who are covered with eyes, with wings flying and covering their feet and faces while they worshiped God. The forms of lion, ox, man and eagle come from the book of Ezekiel 1:10 ¹⁰ where Ezekiel saw creatures whose faces looked like this. Each of the four had the face of a human being, and on the right side each had the face of a lion, and on the left the face of an ox; each also had the face of an eagle. These creatures accompanied God, and highlighted what Ezekiel calls the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD Ezekiel 1:28. God is indeed glorious, and his retinue continuously worship him, and have wings to fly with speed to execute God's

commands, and eyes to see everything, so that God has complete knowledge of everything that happens in his creation.

As you look around this world today, God's glory is still there, but it is hidden. Romans tells us that since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made. The problem is that since Adam and Eve disobeyed God, God's glory is hidden. People are without excuse, for although they knew God, they neither glorify him as God nor give thanks to him. Their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Romans 1:20-21. God's glory is evident in this world, but we just don't see it because our foolish, sinful hearts are darkened and blind to it.

Despite this blindness we share, God is still glorious. He is still on the throne, he is surrounded by heavenly beings that cannot but respond to God's glory by worshiping him. They cannot help but cry "'Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,' who was, and is, and is to come." and "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

A day will come when the entire earth will see God's glory as he is, not as hidden by the sinfulness of our hearts. Philippians 2:10 tells us that on that day¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

We don't see that perfect glory of God on this earth today, and we don't see that universal praise, but John had a glimpse of that glory and of that praise before the throne of God in heaven, as we have read today. As we need to understand from Revelation, our minds, even the minds of Christians, are too sinful in this age, to see God's glory in all its fulness, but a day is coming once Jesus returns and all believers are gathered up to heaven, that we will see God's glory that is absolutely true today, and then will be fully revealed, and indeed, every knee will bow, and together with the angels, all will continually cry out: "'Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,' who was, and is, and is to come." and "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." Amen