

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

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"
Revelation 5:13

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

Almighty God, in your wisdom you have so ordered our earthly life that we must walk by faith and not by sight: give us such a trust in your fatherly care that in the face of all perplexities we may give proof of our faith by the courage of our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Ministry of the Word

Exodus 12:24-30

²⁴ "Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. ²⁵ When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. ²⁶ And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' ²⁷ then tell them, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.'" Then the people bowed down and worshiped. ²⁸ The Israelites did just what the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron.

²⁹ At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. ³⁰ Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.

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

Psalms 138 (NIV)

¹ I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart; before the "gods" I will sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your unfailing love and your faithfulness, for you have so exalted your solemn decree that it surpasses your fame.**

³ When I called, you answered me; you greatly emboldened me.

⁴ **May all the kings of the earth praise you, LORD, when they hear what you have decreed.**

⁵ May they sing of the ways of the LORD, for the glory of the LORD is great.

⁶ **Though the LORD is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly; though lofty, he sees them from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life. You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes; with your right hand you save me.

⁸ **The LORD will vindicate me; your love, LORD, endures forever — do not abandon the works of your hands.**

Revelation 5 (NIV)

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” ³ But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. ⁴ I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

⁶ Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. ⁸ And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

¹¹ Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹² In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”

¹⁴ The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

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

John 1:29-34 (NIV)

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ ³¹ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.”

³² Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. ³³ And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.”

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

Sermon - Revelation 5 - Who can open the scroll

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 658 - Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.

All who dwell in dark and sin, My hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?

Chorus: Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?

I have heard You calling in the night.

I will go Lord, if You lead me.

I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have born my peoples pain.

I have wept for love of them, They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak My word to them, Whom shall I send? [Chorus]

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them, My hand will save

Finest bread I will provide, Till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give My life to them, Whom shall I send? [chorus]

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 161 - Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord

Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord

Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice

Tender to me the promise of His Word

In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice

Tell out my soul the greatness of His name

Make known His might the deeds His arm has done

His mercy sure from age to age the same

His holy name the Lord the mighty one

Tell out my soul the greatness of His might

Powers and dominions lay their glory by

Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight

The hungry fed the humble lifted high

Tell out my soul the glories of His Word

Firm is His promise and His mercy sure

Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord

To children's children and for evermore

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 5 - Who can open the scroll?

Last week we heard how awesome our God is, sitting on his throne in heaven. I said the reality is greater than mere human words could describe.

Today John hears things, but when he looks at them, what he sees is something different. This is a pattern that occurs throughout the book of Revelation, and it highlights that our expectations are not always correct - the reality is not what we always expect, at least as far as God is concerned.

First of all, John is in heaven, and sees God on the throne. He is holding a scroll with seven seals, but no one is able to open and read it.

The scroll is God's unfolding plan, what is and what is to come. No one in heaven or on earth was worthy to break open its seals and read it. I remember when I was young being taught to have great respect for books, and always make sure I washed and dried my hands carefully before I read, and it is a similar deal with this scroll. Only the pure can understand God's plan, and as we are reminded throughout scripture, no one is sinless, not even one.

This upsets John no end - if no one is able to open the scroll it implies that God's good plans will never be fulfilled, and since they are good plans, this is devastating. The world would have to be in a very poor state if God's plans were not to come to fruition, but even to John with his faith, this seemed unlikely to happen, and so he wept.

Then we come to the first example of John hearing and then seeing. He hears one of the elders say to him, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

What a relief, a powerful lion, the lion of Judah, is able to open the seals. Jacob described his son Judah as (NIV) Gen 49:9 "You are a lion's cub, Judah; you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness—who dares to rouse him?"

Obviously a lion is a pretty powerful image. Proverbs tells us: Proverbs 30:29-30 (NIV) 29 "There are three things that are stately in their stride, four that move with stately bearing: 30 a lion, mighty among beasts, who retreats before nothing"

We all know lions are scary, and until about 800 years ago they still roamed the region of Israel, and could be a significant problem for travellers. So

John describing Jesus as the lion of Judah was a very scary, and very impressive image, and well understood. But after hearing that this is who would open the scrolls, what does John actually see when he looks? He saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne. Revelation 5:6 (NIV)

Hang on, hadn't he just heard that it was a lion who would be able to open the scroll - so why does he see a lamb? What's more, it wasn't a particularly impressive lamb - it actually looked like it had already been killed, it was a slain lamb!

But there is even more to this lamb that just looking dead. It is standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. It had seven horns and seven eyes. If you remember back to last week, there were also 4 living creatures and 24 elders surrounding God's throne. This is no coincidence, and is pointing to the divinity of the lamb who has been slain.

The seven horns portray complete and irresistible power, for seven signifies fullness and perfection. No force can oppose the authority of the risen lamb that was slain. The seven eyes reveal His perfect knowledge, wisdom, and watchful care over all the earth. The Lamb who saved mankind as the sacrificial lambs did at Passover also possesses the fullness of divine power and omniscience. The seven spirits portray the Holy Spirit in His perfect fullness and worldwide ministry. The Spirit rests upon the lamb and carries out God's will throughout the earth. The Spirit is not distant from God's people; the Spirit searches, convicts, strengthens, guides, and preserves His church among every nation.

Then, to further emphasise the Lamb's divinity, the four living creatures and the 24 elders worship the Lamb.. They present golden bowls of incense that are our prayers, the prayers of God's people, to the Lamb. We must never think that our prayers don't mean anything, they are presented as golden bowls of incense to God, as pleasing to Him as sacrificial incense in the temple.

The creatures and elders sing a new song to the Lamb: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." Revelation 5:9-10

The Lamb appears to have been slain because its blood has redeemed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. It is only through his death that we can be saved, only through his blood that our perfect, eternal relationship with almighty God can be restored!

Then, it is not only the creatures and elders that are praising the Lamb, the angels join in, thousands and thousands, tens of thousands upon tens of thousands: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

And to top it all off, the creatures, the elders and the millions of angels are joined by every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

Revelation 5:12-13 They obviously get it right, because the 4 living creatures agree by saying Amen, and the elders fall down and worship.

John is introducing us to only one who is able to open the seals of God almighty's perfect, eternal plan. This one is called the powerful Lion of Judah, but appears as a slain lamb. Even slain, this lamb is worshiped by all creation in heaven and earth the same way that God on the throne is worshiped. The lamb is divine in the same way that God is divine and worthy of all praise and worship. All creation recognises the lamb of God in the same way John the baptist recognised Jesus in our gospel reading this morning - the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and who God the Father and the Holy Spirit also identified as the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and is God's chosen one.

I started today by recognising that God's reality is so much greater than what we hear. In our world today, we hear so much about God, some just plain wrong, and some partially right. Just like what I said the world teaches about heaven last week - that it is a fairy tale, or has some distorted image of cherubs floating around on clouds, so the world is at best only partially right, and more often, just plain wrong about God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. At best, the world can only be partially right - human language is simply not capable of fully describing the glory of God - we simply cannot accurately describe the awesomeness of our God, the creator of the entire universe, not the least because our perceptions are limited to our universe, and as he created this universe, God must necessarily be separate from it.

The closest we can come to seeing God's glory is by seeing God the Son. As Jesus told Philip, anyone who has seen him has seen the Father. He is in the Father and the Father is in him. But even those who physically saw Jesus did not see him in all his glory because they usually did not fall down and worship him except in special cases, like the magi at his birth, after he healed people or calmed a storm, and when he ascended into heaven. Paul says he was caught up into the third heaven, to paradise, where he saw the risen Jesus and heard inexpressible things that no one is permitted to tell 2 Corinthians 12:4, as John was caught up into heaven in Revelation and saw Jesus at the throne of God. The glory of God the Father and Jesus Christ are inexpressible in words that mere humans can understand this side of heaven, but prompted ultimate worship from the four creatures, the 24 elders and, indeed, all of creation.

We too, one day, will witness the inexpressible wonder of God the Father and of Jesus Christ his son, and we too, will all creation, will express our wonderful praise, singing with all creation "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" Revelation 5:13. With all creation we will sing this praise for ever and ever because although we only now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face and shall know fully. 1 Corinthians 13:12-13

Nevertheless, even now we see in part, and must worship God the Son at least to the extent of our ability, knowing that the reality exceeds our understanding a million to one.

Let us together worship him now in the words all of creation will use, and are one the screen: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

And as the four living creatures say: Amen and Amen!