

THE INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN 501

1
God Himself is present:
Let us now adore Him
And with awe appear before Him.
God is in His temple,
All within keep silence,
Prostrate lie with deepest reverence.
Him alone
God we own,
Him our God and Saviour,
Praise His name for ever.

2
God Himself is present:
Hear the harps resounding;
See the hosts the throne surrounding.
Holy, holy, holy,
Hear the hymn ascending,
Saints' and angels' voices blending.
Bow Thine ear
To us here;
Hear, O Christ, the praises
That Thy Church now raises.

3
O Thou fount of blessing.
Purify my spirit,
Trusting only in Thy merit.
Like the holy angels
Who behold Thy glory,
May I ceaselessly adore Thee.
Lord, Thy will
To fulfil
Be my one endeavour
Now, henceforth, for ever.

THE CONFESSION

Dear friends in Christ: Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins, and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

He made heaven and earth.

I said, I will confess my sins to the Lord.

Then He forgave the guilt of my sin.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we confess to You that by nature we are sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy and plead for Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Most merciful God, You have given Your only Son to die for us: Have mercy on us, and for His sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins. By Your Holy Spirit increase our knowledge of You and Your will, and make us obedient to Your Word, so that by Your grace we may come to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He has given the right to become the children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.

THE INTROIT

Psalm 138

I shall praise You with all my heart; I shall sing praise to You in front of the false gods.

I shall worship toward Your holy temple, and I shall praise Your name, because of Your mercy and because of Your truth. For You have made Your Word great, greater than Your entire name.

In the day when I called You answered me. You made me bold by strengthening my soul.

All the kings of the earth will praise You, O LORD, because they have heard the Words of Your mouth.

May they sing about the Ways of the LORD; for the glory of the LORD is great.

For, though the LORD is on high, He looks upon the lowly. Yet, He knows the haughty person from a distance.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will keep me alive. You will stretch out Your hand against the anger of my enemies, and Your right hand will save me.

The LORD will take vengeance to protect me. Your mercy, O LORD, endures for ever. Do not forsake the works of Your hands.

THE GLORY TO THE FATHER

Glory to the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and will be for evermore. Amen.

THE LORD HAVE MERCY

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

THE GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

Glory to God in the highest.

And on earth peace, among men with whom He is pleased. We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory, O Lord God, heavenly king, God, the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer. You are seated at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us. For You alone are holy, You alone are Lord, You alone, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

O Lord, keep Your family, the Church, continually in the true faith, that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

The First Reading is written in chapter ____ of ____, beginning at verse _____.

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)

¹ In the year when King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord **sitting on a high and lofty throne**. The train of His robe was filling the Temple. ² Seraphs were standing above Him. **Each had six wings**; each was using two wings to cover his face; each was using two wings to cover his legs; and each was using two wings to fly. ³ The one was calling to the other and saying: **“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts! His glory fills the whole earth!”**

⁴ The voices of those who were calling out caused the foundations of the doorposts to shake, and the **Temple was filled with smoke**. ⁵ Then I said: “How terrible for me! For I have been brought to silence. For I am a man with unclean lips and live among people with unclean lips. For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.”

⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, with a glowing coal in his hand. He had used tongs to take it from the altar. ⁷ He touched my mouth with it and said: “Look! This has touched your lips. Your guilt has been taken away, and your sin has been atoned for.”

⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?”

Then I said, “Here I am. Send me!”

⁹ He said: “**Go and tell this people: ‘Keep on listening but do not understand, and keep on seeing but do not perceive!’** ¹⁰ **Make the heart of this people insensitive, make their ears dull and seal their eyes shut, that they may not see with their eyes or hear with their ears and that their hearts may not understand, so that they should not turn back and find healing for themselves!’**”

¹¹ Then I said, “How long, O Lord?”

He replied: “Until the cities lie desolate with no inhabitants, the houses are without people and the ground is devastated and deserted, ¹² until the LORD completely removes the people far away, and there is a large abandoned area in the middle of the land. ¹³ Even if a tenth remains in the land, it will again serve as firewood. As the terebinth and the oak tree leave a stump when they are cut down, so a holy seed will be the stump of the land.”

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

THE SECOND READING

The Second Reading is written in chapter ___ of ___, beginning at verse _____.

1 Corinthians 14:12-20

¹² So, since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, you too should try to excel in them that the church may be edified. ¹³ Therefore, let the person who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret! ¹⁴ For, if I pray in a tongue, my spirit is praying, but my mind is not productive. ¹⁵ What is the conclusion then? I shall pray with my spirit and shall also pray with my mind. I shall sing with my spirit and shall also sing with my mind. ¹⁶ Otherwise, if you praise God only with your spirit, how can the person who occupies the place of an uninformed person say “Amen” to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying? ¹⁷ For you indeed are giving thanks well, but the other person is not edified. ¹⁸ I thank God that I speak in tongues more than you all, ¹⁹ but, in the church, I would rather say five words with my understanding, that I may also instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue. ²⁰ Fellow-Christians, stop being childish in your minds! Be infants in evil but be mature in your minds!

After the reading: This is the Word of the Lord. **Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel is written in the ___ chapter of the Gospel according to ___, beginning at verse ___.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

Luke 5:1-11

1 While the people were crowding around Jesus as they were listening to the Word of God, He was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret. 2 He saw two boats standing on the shore of the lake. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. 3 Then Jesus got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from the shore. He sat down and began to teach the crowd from the boat. 4 When He had stopped speaking, He told Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch!”

5 Simon answered, “Master, we have been working hard all night and have caught nothing. Nevertheless, at Your Word, I shall let down the nets.”

6 When the men had done this, they caught a very large number of fish, and their nets began to tear. 7 They signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came, and they filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me! For I am a sinful man, Lord.”

9 He and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken, 10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were Simon’s partners. Then Jesus told Simon, “Stop being afraid! From now on you will be catching people.”

11 When they had brought the boats to the shore, they left everything and became His followers.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

1
Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

2
He comes with succour speedy
To those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy,
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Were precious in His sight.

5
O'er every foe victorious,
He on His throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious,
All blessing and all-blest:
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand for ever;
That name to us is Love.

3
He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth,
And love, joy, hope, like flowers,
Spring in His path to birth;
Before Him on the mountains
Shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness in fountains
From hill to valley flow.

4
Kings shall bow down before Him,
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him,
His praise all people sing:
To Him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend,
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.

OUR DAILY AND SPIRITUAL BREAD
Sermon for the 5th Sunday after Epiphany, 2025
Luke 5:1-11

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

The text for our sermon today is our Gospel read before, Luke 5:1-11:

Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us through Your truth, Your Word is truth. Amen.

Dear friends in Christ,

From our Gospel readings over the past couple of weeks, Luke has pictured for us Jesus *going it alone* in proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom. He seemed to have had no companions as He made His way through the synagogues. However, Jesus and the first disciples were well acquainted with each other even before their call to follow. Earlier Jesus had gone to the home of Simon Peter to heal his mother-in-law.¹

Today, we see how the **“people were crowding around Jesus as they were listening to the Word of God.”** Jesus was **“standing by the Lake of Gennesaret.”** This Lake is more commonly known as the Sea of Galilee, and while we aren't told exactly what Jesus was saying, surely His constant message would have included warnings against sin and false teaching that makes one unholy before God, and it would have included the message that grace and salvation are to be found in Him alone.

Whatever Jesus was saying, the crowd had grown. Jesus **“saw two boats standing on the shore of the lake. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Then Jesus got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from the shore. He sat down and began to teach the crowd from the boat.”** Jesus needed to use Simon's boat because of the people crowding around Him. This points to the popularity of Jesus as a teacher and the authority with which He spoke.

“When He had stopped speaking, He told Simon, “Put out into the deep water, and let down your nets for a catch.”⁵ Simon answered, “Master, we have been working hard all night and have caught nothing. Nevertheless, at Your Word, I shall let down the nets.”

Simon followed Jesus' instructions, and we know what happened next. Simon and his partners **“caught a very large number of fish, and their nets began to tear. They signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came, and they filled both the boats so that they began to sink.”** This was a miracle showing how much Jesus desired to help Simon. To make a living, fishermen need fish. The Lord helps Simon Peter out with his daily bread.

After a slow night of fishing, in which nothing was caught, you would expect Simon to show much joy, but look at his reaction. Between the teaching and the miracle, he has come to the realisation of something important. He is standing in the presence of more than just a teacher, more than just a man. He is standing in the presence of the Messiah - The eternal Son of God.

¹ Luke 4:38-39

Standing in the presence of his holy Lord, the holiness of Jesus suddenly makes Simon see how holy he is not. Simon knows he is unworthy to be in Jesus' presence and exclaims: **“Go away from me, for I am a sinful man, Lord!”**

Simon had told the truth. He is a sinner who justly deserves the Lord's temporal and eternal punishment. There is nothing in him that deserves the Lord's gracious gift of all those fish or anything else. No, for his sin, Simon Peter only deserves to have the Lord go away from him.

When Simon asked the Lord to leave him, *he had the whole situation wrong*. Jesus had not accidentally hopped in the boat with Simon without realising He was helping out a sinner. Jesus knew that Simon was a sinner, and that was *precisely why* He hopped into the boat. Rather than leave Simon with his sin, Jesus says: **“Stop being afraid.”** Simon Peter need not be afraid because by these words of Christ, he has been forgiven.

So now Simon Peter had two gifts: The large catch of fish and the forgiveness of sins.

Simon received another gift that day. Jesus tells him, **“From now on you will be catching people.”**

Now that Simon's sins have been forgiven and has been made holy, Jesus is going to make Simon's life holy too. He will now be a disciple, later an apostle, a fisher of men. On Pentecost, Simon, now known as Peter, would preach a sermon that would lead to the conversion and baptism of three thousand people.² Now that Jesus has come to him, Peter has the kingdom of heaven. He doesn't deserve it, he doesn't get these things because of who he is, but he receives these gifts solely because of *who Jesus is*.

Dear friends, here is the lesson for us: The Lord still gives these gifts today. Obviously, as He gave Peter that huge catch of fish, so He also continues to give us our daily bread. The Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer reads, *“Give us this day our daily bread,”* and the Catechism explains daily bread as including *everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbours, and the like.* It is amazing to think that God not only gives these blessings to those who love Him but to all, whether they believe in Him or not and whether they give thanks to Him or not. Even if people give credit to other gods for their blessings, He still gives daily bread.

² Acts 2ff

Obviously, here, though, we need to remember the sin of ingratitude.

Look at all God freely gives, yet we often fail to give Him gratitude. Instead, we grumble and complain. How often have we failed to thank Him properly? But even more dangerous is the thought that our Old Adam is continually trying to get us to say with Peter, “**Go away from me**”! He wants us to dwell on *the first gift*, our daily bread, so much so that we don’t care for the second gift, *the forgiveness of sins*.

No matter what, the Old Adam—our old sinful nature—will take God’s *temporal gifts* and try to get us to fix our eyes on them, so much so that we soon forget that the Lord has other gifts to offer. This is a real and present danger to us all, especially in the life of the Church. Take, for example, the preaching of Law and Gospel. Not too many churches today openly preach this doctrine. Many refuse to speak of hell and damnation, instead focusing their preaching on the goodness of God. No one wants to hear how bad they are.

Now, telling of the goodness of God doesn’t seem too bad, but can you see the error? If a pastor preaches only of the good gifts God gives in this life and refuses to speak of sin as well as grace, then he denies people of the Good News of God’s greater goodness—the forgiveness of sins all for the sake of Christ, who has died and has risen again for them.

Jesus became flesh and went the way of the cross to redeem us from our sins. He suffered God’s judgment in our place, and the Father credited us with Jesus’ righteousness so that we are pardoned for our sins and have eternal life. Give me a fish, and I eat for a day—redeem me from sin, and I live forever. Out of these two, which is the greatest gift?

No doubt, the gifts of this life are great, yet the gifts of the Lord for eternal life are far, far better. He does not call us to pick one or the other but showers both upon us. Do not stop with the gifts for this life alone; the Lord desires to give us so much more. Daily bread is a great blessing, but to focus solely on it and reject forgiveness is to say with Simon: “**Go away from me.**” Those who persist in this error will stand before Him on Judgment Day only to hear Him say: “*Go away from Me, all you evildoers!*” (Luke 13:27).

Dear friends, we have been blessed, and we are honoured. Jesus honours us with His presence, and the Almighty God comes to us with His free gifts. What a joy to have! The Lord not only gives us our daily bread for this life but also the Living Bread for eternal life and sanctifies us along the way. Where our sin once cried out:

“Go away from me,” Jesus now says, **“Stop being afraid.”** *“I am with you always,”* and if the Lord does not depart, then heaven is ours for all eternity. Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

HYMN 336

1	3
“Come, follow Me,” the Saviour spake, “All in My way abiding; Deny yourselves, the world forsake, Obey My call and guiding. O bear the cross, whate’er betide, Take My example for your guide.	“I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your souls’ salvation, Your heart from every guile to free From sin and its temptation. I am the refuge of the soul And lead you to your heavenly goal.
2	4
“I am the light, I light the way, A holy life displaying; I bid you walk as in the day, I keep your feet from straying. I am the way, the path I show Which you must follow here below.	“But if the battle prove too sore, I at your side stand ready; The fight is Mine, I go before, At all times firm and steady. A coward he who will not heed When his commander takes the lead.”
5	
Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, Bearing the cross appointed, And firmly clinging to His Word, In suffering be undaunted. Who will not bear the battle’s strain The crown of life shall ne’er obtain.	

THE OFFERTORY

What can I offer to the Lord: for all His goodness to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation: and call on the name of the Lord.

I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving: and call on the name of the Lord.

I will keep my promises to the Lord: in the presence of all His people;

In the courts of the house of the Lord: in your midst, O Jerusalem.

PRAYER FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Father in heaven, we who are Your children by grace pray that Your kingdom may come. We thank and praise You that You have revealed Jesus as Lord and Christ,

and as King for evermore. We pray that His rule may be established from sea to sea and from the rising to the setting of the sun, that every nation, people, and tribe may confess that He is Lord, to Your glory. We thank You that, though He is King of kings, He humbled Himself and became our servant, so that He might be our Saviour, able to save all who come to You through Him.

Gracious Father, You do not enjoy seeing sinners die, but would rather see them turn from their sinning and live. Therefore spread the Gospel, and extend Your kingdom among all nations on earth. Cause the mighty to bow before Jesus their Lord, and teach all people to know that there is healing and saving power only in Him.

Although we rejoice that Your kingdom is already with us, make it come with fresh power and new blessing into our lives. Make the peace of Christ to rule in our hearts, and move us to thankfulness and praise. Give us increased trust in Your Word and obedience to Your commandments. Give us grace to be humble, merciful, kind, and forgiving. Make Christ's message in all its richness live in our hearts and direct all we do and say. Grant that we, redeemed in body and spirit, may be dead to sin and alive to righteousness. Lead us to rejoice in Your grace, and to give thanks for Your mercy day by day.

We pray for Your Church on earth. Keep it from weakness and error, from unfaithful shepherds and false teachers. Protect us from heresy and division. Defend us from the lies of Satan and from the schemes of godless men. Make Your Church secure against the powers of hell. Teach Your people to be patient in hope, firm in trust, and faithful in prayer, until that day comes when You send Your angels to gather Your own into Your everlasting kingdom.

Comfort those who are cast down. Give patience to the sick, peace to the anxious, strength to the weak, help to the needy, and forgiveness to the repentant.

Pour out Your mercy on us all, and teach us to set our hearts on things above, where Christ our Lord lives and reigns. In His holy and precious name we pray. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favour, and give us peace. **Amen.**

1
 In Jesus I find peace and rest:
 The world is full of sorrow;
 Within His wounds, secure and blest,
 I fear no unknown morrow.
 Let come what may, The Lord, my stay,
 In danger will defend me,
 And help and comfort lend me.

2
 He comes with grace and love so free,
 His arms to me extending;
 I hear His voice: Come unto Me,
 Find peace and rest unending.
 Immanuel Doth love me well;
 He saves me from damnation
 And grants me His salvation.

3
 To me the preaching of the cross
 Is wisdom everlasting;
 Thy death, O Lord, redeems my loss;
 On Thee my burden casting,
 I in Thy name
 A refuge claim
 From sin and ills distressing:

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

16 February	23 February	2 March
8.30am OAK LR (Student Matthew Sippel to lead) 9.00am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am MARBURG HC Conf.	8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR (Student Matthew Sippel to lead) 9.00am MARBURG LR 9.00am AUB HC Conf.	8.30am OAK HC 9.00am TMBA LR (Student Matthew Sippel to lead) 9.30am AUB LR 10.15am GRN HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR

CONGREGATIONAL AGM'S:

Aubigny: Today, 10.45am.
 Toowoomba: Sunday, 16 Febuary, 2.00pm.
 Marburg: Sunday, 23 February after divine service.
 Greenwood: Sunday, 23 February, 10.45am.
 Oakey: Sunday, 23 February, 1.00pm.
 Lowood: Sunday, 9 March, after divine service.

Tuesday, February 11, 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Trinity Oakey.

Saturday, February 15, 7:00pm, Young Adults and Youth (YAY) is on once again at Aubigny, with the hall open from 6:30pm. Please bring yourself, your Bible, and a plate to share for supper, for an evening of fun and games, food, and a devotion. Any questions, please contact Matthew at matthewsippelaelc@gmail.com

Robert Ritter has various church music vinyl records that used to belong to his mother available for sale. Any sales will be donated to the Seminary Committee. If you would like to find out what he has, give him a call at 0419 722438.

FEBRUARY BIBLE STUDIES

Thursday the 13th, 10.00am. Our Saviour Lowood.
 Wednesday the 19th, 7.30pm. St Pauls Greenwood.
 Friday the 28th, 7.30pm. Oak/Aub at Trinity Oakey.