

**BULLETIN FOR TRINITY MARBURG, ST JOHN'S MINDEN,
OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD.**

7th Sunday after Pentecost 8th July 2018.

Closed Communion

The A.E.L.C upholds the historical, biblical and Lutheran practice of closed communion. Therefore we ask that only A.E.L.C members come forward for communion.

Mark 6:1-13

HYMNS: 904, 839, 836, 701, 630, 842.

INTROIT: - PSALM 123,

P I have been lifting up my eyes to You,

C O You who are enthroned in heaven.

P Indeed, as the eyes of servants look to the hands of their masters, as the eyes of a maidservant look to the hand of her mistress,

C so our eyes look to the LORD, our God, until He shows favour to us.

P Show favour to us, O LORD, show favour to us!

C For we have had more than enough contempt.

All Our souls have had more than enough derision from those who are at ease, and derision from those who are proud.

COLLECT: O God, Your almighty power is made known chiefly in showing mercy. Grant the fullness of Your grace that we may be called to repentance and be made partakers of Your heavenly treasures; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

READINGS: Old Testament, Ezekiel 2:1-5.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10.

Gospel: Mark 6:1-13.

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 for this Sunday is written in the book of Mark 6:1-6, which was our gospel reading before

1 Then Jesus went away from there and came to His hometown, and His disciples followed Him. **2** When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue. Many who heard Him were amazed. They asked, “Where did this Man get these things? What is this wisdom given to Him, that His hands are doing such miracles? **3** Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? Are not His sisters also here with us?”

So they took offence at Him.

4 However, Jesus began to tell them, “A prophet is not without honour, except in his hometown, among his relatives, and in his family.”

5 He could not perform any miracle there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. **6** He was amazed at their unbelief. Then He went all around in the villages, and taught.

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

Who Wouldn't Have the Gall?

If given the choice, how often would you choose to suffer or endure any kind of pain? But that's the biggest problem with most, if not all, forms of suffering and pain—we don't get to choose. These times of physical bodily pain come to us uninvited and unwanted. No one makes a date with any kind of debilitating or life-threatening illness. No one schedules so many days a week to hurt and suffer pain.

These times and the suffering they bring come to us in forms and effects not of our choosing. Also not of our choosing is pain's side effect: loneliness. The physical pain or hurt we feel during an illness is not something that we are able to share fully with others in the hopes of lessening it.

We can talk until we're blue in the face about our hurt and our pain without anyone fully receiving or knowing it or us. There are billion dollar companies whose sole purpose is to try to help us choose the time of our pain or suffering. Painkillers abound, so that while we may not be able to choose the time of our pain, we may at least have some control over its severity and effects. Yet no matter the relief in the level of pain, we are still alone with it.

While none of us chooses our illnesses, the associated pains, and the loneliness of each, there is One who chose to meet us in our pain. He chooses to meet us and our pain so as to take them fully to Himself. Listen and hear how He chose to hurt physically, feel the pain—our pain—physically. **"And when they came to a place called Golgotha. . . , they offered [Jesus] wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when He tasted it, He would not drink it"** (Matthew 27:33-34).

When they were getting ready to nail Him to the cross, whether out of mercy or to ease their own consciences, they offered Jesus some wine that had gall mixed in it. Gall was used during this period as an effective painkiller. Jesus was offered the opportunity to relieve the pain and agony He suffered from Pilate's guards beating His flesh raw. The gall would also allow Him to partially escape the excruciating pain and suffering of His coming crucifixion.

Yet when Jesus tasted its presence, He refused to take it and chose to continue to suffer His immediate pain and to suffer even greater pain as He was nailed and then hung on the cross. Why? Why would Jesus choose to suffer? Why would He choose to feel such extreme pain? Because Jesus knew that when it comes to pain and suffering under sin, you and I don't have a choice.

Pain and suffering are the faithful children of all sin and sometimes our sinful actions. When we suffer or how much we suffer is seldom, if ever, a matter of our choice.

Christ, however, made it His choice to suffer all the sensations of pain that our sin and the wrath of God rightly deserve. While Christ has saved us through His suffering, He has not set us free from suffering in this sinful fallen world. Having allowed His body and life to be filled with our pain and the wrath of God against us, He now fills our pain with His presence and the power of His resurrection.

Our loneliness and helplessness in suffering is banished as Christ fills us and these times with His presence and the victory of His resurrection. We may not get to choose the times and duration of our suffering, but through faith we are assured that our Lord has chosen to not let us experience our pain alone.

STRENGTH FOR THE DAY

>>Divine Service 15th July [Green]
Readings: Psalm 85:1-13
Old Testament : Amos 7:7-15
Epistle: Ephesians 1:3-14
Gospel: Mark 6:14-29.

9am Our Saviour Lowood HC
8th Sunday after Pentecost
Bible study Augsburg C
Hymns: 124, 149, 411, 400, 289, 197.

>>Divine Service 22nd July [Green]
Readings: Psalm 23
Old Testament: Jeremiah 23:1-6
Epistle: Ephesians 2:11-32
Gospel: Mark 6:30-44

9am Trinity Marburg HC
9th Sunday after Pentecost
Bible Study Augsburg C
Hymns: 604, 191, 391, 465, 289, 388.

>>Divine Service 29th July [Green]
Readings : Psalm 136:1-9
Old Testament: genesis 9:8-17
Epistle: Ephesians 3:14-21
Gospel: Mark 6: 45-56.

9am St John's Minden LR
10th Sunday after Pentecost
LSB Hymns :809, 595, 849, 533, 663.

>>Just a reminder to those who have copies of the LSB hymnal to bring them to the Minden Service' to help out with numbers..

>>Study on the AUGSBURG CONFESSION -- directly after Church every Sunday for everyone, confirmation students and up; -- Bring your Bible. -- quick cuppa and biscuit.

>>Next mid week Bible Study on Proverbs is on Thursday 19th July at Lowood 10am.

>> Confirmation Class is on every Friday afternoon at MARBURG 4.15pm to start by 4.30 except on School Holidays.

>> Next CoC meeting is on Saturday September 8th at Minden 10am.

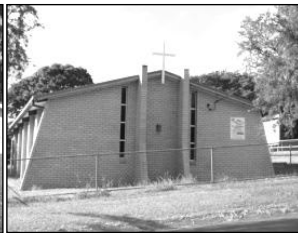
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