

MARBURG PARISH OF THE AELC
TRINITY MARBURG, ST JOHN'S MINDEN, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD

18 April 2021

The Third Sunday of Easter

HYMNS: 112 90 221 294 284 97

INTROIT: INTROIT: Answer me when I call, O my righteous God. You have made wide room for me in my distress; be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

O sons of man, how long will you turn my glory into disgrace? How long will you love what is empty and seek what is a lie?

Know that the LORD has singled out for Himself the one who is devout: the LORD will hear when I call to Him.

Tremble, and do not sin. Tell this to yourselves on your beds, and be silent.

Offer righteous sacrifices; and trust in the LORD!

There are many who are saying, "Who will show us any good?" Lift up the light of Your face upon us, O LORD.

You have put more joy in my heart than at the time when their grain and their new wine increased.

Let me at once lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O LORD, will make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 4

COLLECT: O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS:

Acts 3:11-21 Peter's address after the healing of the cripple at the temple.

1 John 3:1-7 We are God's children.

Luke 24:36-49 The risen Jesus appears to His disciples in a locked room.

SERMON: 1 John 3:1-7 SEE THE FATHER'S LOVE

The Lord's Supper has always been seen as a sign of unity between those who commune together at the Lord's table (1 Cor. 10:17). When Christians partake of the Lord's Supper in a church body that has a confession of faith, they thereby declare that they believe that they are one in faith with those who commune with them. Since people cannot honestly hold two differing confessions at the same time, they cannot honestly commune with those whose confession is in conflict with their own. If any do this nevertheless, they deny their own confession, and so deny Christ Himself (2 Cor. 6:14-18). **We ask visitors who are communicant members in a church not in fellowship with the AELC, or are not familiar with the *AELC Statement of Faith*, to refrain from communing today. If you have questions, please speak with the pastor after service.**

Reverend: The “Meaning of Easter” Is “We Can Save Ourselves”

Newly elected US Senator “Reverend” Warnock claims we can save ourselves through helping others - a repudiation of the gospel of grace.

What is the meaning of Easter? For most professing Christians, that's an easy one to answer: it's a celebration of Jesus' substitutionary death on the cross for us and His triumphant resurrection from death. In a nutshell, it's a time to remember the gospel message. Well, according to a US senator and “reverend,” Raphael Warnock of Georgia, the meaning of Easter is “more transcendent” than that.

In a now-deleted tweet, Sen. Warnock wrote, “The meaning of Easter is more transcendent than the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Whether you are Christian or not, through a commitment to helping others we are able to save ourselves.”

In an attempt to make the Easter holiday “more transcendent,” (i.e., “inclusive”), this “reverend” denied the truth, power, and exclusivity of the gospel message. It's nothing short of heretical. It's an illustration of the sin nature of man as described in Genesis 3:1: “Did God really say...?”

We in Adam gave in to the devil's temptation not to trust God's Word. Our sin nature is such that we would rather trust the word of others instead of the Word of God.

It's also an illustration of mankind succumbing to the devil's temptation that “you will be like God” (Genesis 3:5). We want to be our own god, to decide “truth” for ourselves. Genesis 3 sums up the sinful nature of man as a result of trusting the devil's word not God's, just as this “reverend” did in this tweet.

So did God actually say that we are sinners who can't save ourselves? That we're hopelessly lost apart from Christ? That no amount of good works - like

“helping others” - will merit us anything with God? Yes - absolutely yes, He did.

I'll leave you with some Scripture, as God's Word - not man's ideas (as he tries to be his own god) - is the ultimate authority and the only absolute truth:

For by grace you have been saved through faith. This is not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

He saved us, not because of any righteous works that we have done but because of His mercy, through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ, our Saviour, that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in keeping with the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:5-7)

There is also salvation in no one else. For there is no other name under heaven that has been given among human beings by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)

Jesus told him, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. They are justified freely by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:23-24)

Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I tell you, unless anyone is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3)

I suggest that this “reverend” and prominent politician needs to study his Bible to understand the true gospel.

Welcome to all worshipping with us today! Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 46333604 or 0407583922.

Email him at paziebell@gmail.com or to the church office at ddaelc@gmail.com.

Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at www.aelc.org.au

Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.

COMING SERVICES

25 April 4 EASTER	2 May 5 EASTER	9 May 6 EASTER
8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR	8.30am OAK LR 8.00am TMBA Bible Study & 9.00am HC 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC 9.00am MARBURG LR	8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD HC & Bible Study
Sunday, 25 April		
READINGS: Acts 4:1-12; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18		
HYMNS: 151 391 387 (789 291) 609		
Sunday, 2 May		
READINGS: Acts 8:26-40; 1 John 4:1-21; John 15:1-8		
HYMNS: 461 181 99 (842 333) 279		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday, 25 April. A meeting will be held after service to finalise the closing of the parish.

Monday, 26 April, 10.00am. A Parish Sunday School picnic will be held at St John's Aubigny. Everyone is invited. Could each family please provide something for a shared lunch? Children, remember, if you took home a colouring picture with you a few weeks back, please remember to bring it along on the day.