

**Australian Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,**  
**ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, TRINITY MARBURG, TRINITY OAKEY,**

27 June 2021

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**HYMNS:** 502 157 171 314 290 451

**INTROIT:** I shall extol You, O LORD, for You have lifted me out of the depths, and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.

O LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and You healed me.

O LORD, You brought my soul up from the grave; You kept me alive, that I might not go down to the pit.

Sing praise to the LORD, You saints of His, and give thanks as you remember His holiness.

For His anger lasts for only a moment. His favour lasts for a life-time.

Weeping may last for the evening, but there is a shout of joy in the morning.

When I was at ease, I said, "I shall never be shaken."

LORD, by Your favour You have made my mountain stand strong; You hid Your face, and I was terrified.

I shall call out to You, O LORD. I shall plead to the LORD for grace: "What profit is there if my blood is shed, when I go down into the pit? Will dust praise You? Will it proclaim Your truth?"

Hear, O LORD, and have mercy on me; LORD, be my Helper!"

You have changed my rites of mourning into dancing. You have removed my sackcloth and You have clothed me with joy, so that what is glorious may praise You with music and may not be silent. O LORD my God, I shall praise You for ever. Psalm 30

**COLLECT:** Heavenly Father, during His earthly ministry Your Son Jesus healed the sick and raised the dead. By the healing medicine of the Word and Sacraments, pour love toward You into our hearts, and grant that we may live eternally; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**READINGS:**

Lamentations 3:22-33 The LORD'S goodness and mercy will not fail.

2 Corinthians 8:7-15 Paul asks the Corinthians to finish their collection.

Mark 5:21-43 The daughter of Jairus and the woman with a haemorrhage.

## SERMON: Lamentations 3:22-33

### THE LORD'S COMPASSION HAS NOT COME TO AN END

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.**

#### Am I Willing to Take a Stand?

It's popular today to talk about being spiritual but not religious. Some people want to be considered spiritual, but they are not sure they want to take a stand for Jesus.

Other people tend to think about religion in terms of family or tradition. Children or spouses act as though someone else can maintain a relationship with God for them - that having godly parents or grandparents will somehow qualify them for life in heaven. But that simply does not work.

Jesus Himself acknowledged that being a follower is a personal matter that will not always be easy. In fact, it may at times cause divisions even in families. He says, "*Do you think that I have come to give peace on the earth? No, I tell you but rather, division. For from now on there will be five in one family who have been divided, three against two, and two against three*" (Luke 12:51-52).

In saying these words, Jesus was just being honest. No one will doubt that, in times past, Christians have faced opposition because of their faith. Probably all of the apostles with the exception of John died violently because of their faithfulness to Christ. Moreover, the list of martyrs has lengthened in every century.

So, what do Jesus' words say to each of us? Many of us grew up when being a Christian was popular and respected. What do Jesus' words mean for us as 21st-century followers of Christ living in post-Christian Australia? Hopefully, His words will cause each of us to pause and take stock of our faith. If our faith is never challenged, is it possible that we have made our faith so much like our world that it simply offends no one? Have we come to the point that the world sets the standards for our faith, rather than us setting standards for our world by living out our faith? Jesus clearly indicates that there are times when the truth of His Word will create division and controversy.

Does that mean we have to get involved in difficult issues? Does God want us to take stands? There is a simple answer to those questions: Jesus did.

How peaceful His life could have been! He could have remained in the carpenter's shop in Nazareth. He could have preached and healed and won great popularity among

the people. But Jesus did what He had to do, even if the consequences were a cross.

And there we find our challenge and our comfort. Following Christ and taking a stand for Him may at times cause divisions and troubles. It certainly will not be considered politically correct by many in our society. But, at the same time, we know that when we do follow Christ and stand up for Him and for the truths of His Word, there is no cause for fear even if others choose to ridicule or attack us. We are standing with the very One who gave His life on the cross so that we can have eternal life.

Once when Martin Luther was at the height of his struggles with the Roman Church, someone asked him what he would do if the princes and their supporters deserted him. “Where will you be then, Martin?” he was asked.

The bold reformer replied, “I will be where I have always been, in the hands of God.”

That is still true today when we take our stand for Jesus. We are always in the hands of God, and we can count on Him. I pray that God will give each of us the courage to take our stand with Jesus in our lives each day. The following hymn is a wonderful reminder of staying in the hands of God and trusting in Him:

#### WHO TRUSTS IN GOD, A STRONG ABODE

1

Who trusts in God, a strong abode  
In heaven and earth possesses;  
Who looks in love to Christ above,  
No fear his heart oppresses.  
In Thee alone, dear Lord, we own  
All hope and consolation;  
Our shield from foes, and balm for woes,  
Our great and sure salvation.

2

Though Satan’s wrath beset our path,  
And worldly scorn assail us,  
While Thou art near we will not fear,  
Thy strength shall never fail us.  
Thy rod and staff shall keep us safe,  
And guide our steps for ever;  
Nor shades of death, nor hell beneath,  
Our souls from Thee shall sever.

3

In all the strife of mortal life  
Our feet shall stand securely;  
Temptation’s hour shall lose its power,  
For Thou shalt guard us surely.  
O God, renew with heav’nly dew  
Our body, soul, and spirit,  
Until we stand at Thy right hand,  
Through Jesus’ saving merit.

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

Email him at [paziebell@gmail.com](mailto:paziebell@gmail.com) or to the church office at [ddaelc@gmail.com](mailto:ddaelc@gmail.com).

Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at [www.aelc.org.au](http://www.aelc.org.au)

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

## COMING SERVICES

4 July 6 Pentecost	11 July 7 Pentecost	18 July 8 Pentecost
8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA HC 9.30am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC 9.00am MARBURG LR	8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am MARBURG HC & Bible Study	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR
<b>Sunday, 4 July</b>		
READINGS: Ezekiel 2:1-5; 2 Corinthians 12:1-10; Mark 6:1-13		
HYMNS: 426 217 373 (68 292) 454		
<b>Sunday, 11 July</b>		
READINGS: Amos 7:7-15; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29		
HYMNS: 124 400 466 (842 291) 508		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, July 7, 10.00am. Women's Guild at Lowood. *Opening Devotion:* Narelle Zischke. *Choose a Bible verse from:* Genesis 5. *Item of Interest:* Holidays.

From early July, all churches will be required to use the Queensland Check In app. Each congregation of the AELC has now been registered. The app is available on the Google Play and Apple App Stores. Simply search for "Queensland check in app." For those who do not have a smart phone, you will still be required to sign in manually.