

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

30 May 2021

Trinity Sunday - Mission Day Festival

HYMNS: 501 140 219 138 287 139

INTROIT: Give to the LORD, you heavenly beings, give to the LORD glory and strength.

Give to the LORD the glory due to His name! Worship the LORD in holy splendour!

The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory causes it to thunder; the LORD is over many waters.

The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is majestic.

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; yes the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

He also makes them skip about like a calf, Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the LORD stirs flames of fire.

The voice of the LORD makes the wilderness tremble; the LORD makes the Wilderness of Kadesh tremble.

The voice of the LORD causes the fallow deer to be in labour, and brings kids to premature birth; and in His temple everyone is saying, "Glory!"

The LORD sat enthroned over the Deluge, and the LORD has for ever been sitting as King.

The LORD will give strength to His people; the LORD will bless His people with peace.

Psalm 29

COLLECT: Almighty and everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Isaiah 6:1-8 Isaiah's vision of the LORD.

Acts 2:14a, 22-36 Peter explains Pentecost.

John 3:1-17 God has sent His Son to bring us His life.

SERMON: Isaiah 2:2-3 WE SHOULD NOT BECOME DISCOURAGED

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.**

Worship on Earth as in Heaven

How many of you have seen snow? How do you explain what snow is to someone who has never seen it? Perhaps you could say it is white, like cooked rice, but is very cold, like ice. Sometimes it is nearly liquid, like ice cream, but other times dry and powdery, like sand.

When we see something that our friends have not seen, we need a point of comparison and words that they understand. But at times it is difficult to explain something that they have not seen.

The prophets and apostles had visions like that. In our Old Testament lesson for today, the prophet Isaiah had a vision of the glory and majesty of God. With the aid of the Holy Spirit, Isaiah wrote an account of his vision. He said this: *"I saw the Lord sitting on a high and lofty throne. The train of His robe was filling the Temple"* (Is. 6:1). What he was trying to say was the Lord appeared to him as a King above all kings, and His glory filled the Temple of Jerusalem like the train of a royal robe.

What else? He was attended by seraphim. What is a seraph? A powerful angel. The Bible speaks of different ranks or orders of angels, but not in great detail. Psalm 99:1 reads, *"The LORD reigns. Let the peoples tremble! He is enthroned above the cherubim."* Cherubim generally means angels lower in rank than the seraphim. However, the prophet Ezekiel describes four cherubim directly in front of God's throne, each with four wings (Ezekiel 1:4-11). In the book of Revelation, chapter 4, the Apostle John describes four "living creatures" in front of the throne, each with six wings, like the seraphim in Isaiah and "full of eyes all around and on the inside" (4:8).

It is difficult for us to understand the differences between John's "living creatures," the seraphim of Isaiah and the cherubim of Ezekiel because these are not earthly beings. To say they have four or six wings and are full of eyes

is like saying snow is white like rice, but sometimes is solid like ice, other times nearly liquid like ice cream, or that it can be dry and powdery like sand.

Furthermore, in his vision of God's glory (Daniel 7:9-14), the prophet Daniel says there are thousands upon thousands and millions upon millions of angels gathered in front of God's throne.

And what is this vast multitude of angels constantly shouting? "*Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts!*" (IS. 6:3). Why say "holy" three times? It implies the three Persons in one divine Essence, that is, the Holy Trinity. The prophet Daniel speaks of the "Son of Man," that is, the Second Person, incarnate in Jesus Christ, appearing with God the Father (Daniel 7:13-14). In Revelation, chapter 1, Jesus identifies Himself as the Son of Man, and, in Revelation 2:18, identifies the Son of Man as the Son of God.

Furthermore, in the vision of Revelation, chapter 5, we find the Lamb of God, that is, Jesus Christ, seated at the right hand of God the Father. Seated at His right hand means the Son is equal to the Father and possesses the same authority in heaven and on earth.

Also, the presence of the Holy Spirit is symbolised in Revelation 4:5 by seven lamps of fire. In the Old Testament, in Exodus 25:31-40, Numbers 7:89-8:4, the seven lamps represent the omniscient Spirit of God.

There is something else in John's vision: The presence of human believers in front of God's throne. The 24 elders symbolise the faithful of the Old Testament (the 12 tribes of Israel) and of the New Testament (12 apostles). Because of the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross, we may approach the throne of the Triune God and worship Him in faith and in love.

So the vision of the worship of God by the court of heaven is the model for our worship. God is present among us in the preaching of His Word and in the precious Body and Blood of Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar. Therefore, we respond as we say in the liturgy, "with angels and archangels" as we contemplate the presence of God, offer praise without ceasing, and with all the celestial chorus, always sing: "*Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts! His glory fills the whole earth!*"

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

6 June 2 Pentecost	13 June 3 Pentecost	20 June 4 Pentecost
8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC 9.00am MARBURG LR	8.30am OAK LR 8.00am TMBA Bible Study & 9.00am HC <u>9.30am</u> GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR	8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD HC Confirmation Service
Sunday, 6 June		
READINGS: Genesis 3:8-15; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35		
HYMNS: 159 204 386 (791 286) 175		
Sunday, 13 June		
READINGS: Ezekiel 17:22-24; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; Mark 4:26-34		
HYMNS: 507 267 442 (839 840) 515		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, 1.00pm. the Parish AGM will be held at Marburg.

Wednesday, 2 June, 10.00am Women's Guild at the manse. Opening devotion: Carolyn. Choose a Bible verse from: Genesis 4. Item of Interest: Something farm related.

Tuesday, 8 June. Men's Fellowship at Oakey. Opening devotion: Barry.

The Australian Christian Lobby is holding a speaking event at the Empire Theatre in Toowoomba on Wednesday, 2 June, beginning at 7.00pm. ACL's managing director Martyn Ilse, and the Queensland director Wendy Francis will be speaking about the current issues facing Christians in today's society. Seats need to be reserved. Go to: https://www.acl.org.au/ev_qld_toowoomba to book.