

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

29 August 2021

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

**HYMNS:** 498 329 357 177 287 598

**INTROIT:**

Your Testimonies are wonderful. Therefore, my soul has observed them.  
The revelation of Your Words gives light. It gives understanding to simple people.

I have opened my mouth wide and have been panting, because I have been longing for Your Commandments.

Turn toward me and be gracious to me, as Your custom is toward those who love Your Name!

Make my steps steady by Your Promise, and let no misdeed gain power over me!

Redeem me from human oppression, that I may keep Your Directions!

Make Your face shine on Your servant and teach me Your Prescriptions!

Streams of tears have been running down from my eyes, because people have not been keeping Your Instruction. Psalm 119:129-136

**COLLECT:** O God, the source of all that is just and good, nourish in us every virtue and bring to completion every good intent, that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**READINGS:**

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 An appeal to keep the commands of the LORD.

Ephesians 6:10-20 Put on the full armour of God

Mark 7:14-23 What makes a person unclean?

**SERMON:** Mark 7:14-23 FOLLOWING YOUR HEART IS A VERY DANGEROUS THING TO DO

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.**

Welcome to all worshipping with us today! Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 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.**

*The following news article speaks of the increasing persecution of Christians since the recent withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan..*

### **Taliban going door-to-door in hunt of Christians after Afghan killed ‘for owning a Bible’<sup>1</sup>**

THE TALIBAN are thought to be going door to door in search of Christian believers, with at least one case of an Afghan Christian being killed by militant fighters for owning a bible.

The Taliban have sought to portray themselves as a moderate and reasonable regime, compared to their past rule in Afghanistan. However, there are growing fears that thousands of Afghan Christians will face brutal persecution at the hands of the Taliban. There are already reports of Taliban fighters “going door to door” in search of Christians.

Andrew Boyd, a UK spokesman for Release International, told Great Britain News that “these are the days of the long knives in Afghanistan among the religious minorities, including the Christians”.

Release International is a leading international watchdog that monitors and reports persecution of Christians around the world.

Mr Boyd said: “Christians lived in hiding before the Taliban came to power. We are talking about an invisible group of people who are hidden because they have to be.

“To become a Christian in Afghanistan is an act of apostasy punishable by death, imprisonment or deportation.”

He continued: “Since the Taliban came to power, it has become even more firebrand. Christians are in fear of their lives.

“There have been reports that the Taliban have been going door to door looking not only for people who worked with the government but people who profess the Christian faith.

“There is a number among the Shia Hazara community who have become

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1480227/Taliban-Afghanistan-Christian-persecution-religious-minority-bible-latest-news-vn>

Christians.

“The Taliban have been checking their phones to check if there are any bibles downloaded onto their phones.

“We have a report that at least one Hazara has been killed as a result of this.”

He cited one 16-year-old girl who told Release International: “People are terrified, everyone is scared and afraid of the Taliban.

“I’m crying out to God right now, someone please help us.”

There is a small Christian minority in Afghanistan that practices its faith in secret, according to an April report from Norway’s Country of Origin Information Centre.

The number of Christians in the country is thought to be below 20,000.

Converting someone to Christianity in Afghanistan was illegal even prior to the Taliban’s takeover.

There are other reports of Taliban persecution of religious minorities, with Amnesty International reporting evidence of Taliban killings, detentions and intimidation.

Claims have also emerged of Taliban fighters torturing and killing Shia Hazara members in the village of Mundarakht.

Agnès Callamard, the head of Amnesty International, said the brutality of the killings was “a reminder of the Taliban’s past record and a horrifying indicator of what Taliban rule may bring”.

Christian Nellemann, who leads the RHIPTO Norwegian Centre for Global Analyses, warned that there could be mass executions for those “on the Taliban’s blacklist”.

*“The fact that they persecute us is due to the Word of God: they claim that they are right and that we are wrong. Then it is our duty to pray and to commend our cause to God, for on earth there is no law or judge to vindicate us. Our persecutors are actually in competition not with us, but with God Himself; it is with His kingdom that they are interfering; they are doing the greatest injury not to us, but to God Himself; and it is His wrath and condemnation that they have incurred. When we see all this, we should have pity on them and pray for them to be rescued from their blindness and their terrible doom. No one can do us any harm without doing it first to a far greater lord, namely, to the High Majesty in heaven Himself.”*

— Martin Luther, Luther's Works, Volume 21

## COMING SERVICES

5 September 15 Pentecost	12 September 16 Pentecost	19 September 17 Pentecost
8.30am OAK LR 8.00am TMBA Bible Study & 9.00am HC 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR	8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD HC	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC 9.00am MARBURG LR
<b>Sunday, 5 September</b>		
READINGS: Isaiah 35:4-7a; James 2:1-10; 14-18; Mark 7:24-37		
HYMNS: 505 450 161 (294 291) 430		
<b>Sunday, 12 September</b>		
READINGS: Isaiah 50:4-10; James 3:1-12; Mark 9:14-29		
HYMNS: 411 326 449 (842 291) 156 v.5		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

IF THERE ARE ANY CHANGES TO BE MADE TO SCHEDULED SERVICES DUE TO COVID LOCKDOWNS, THESE WILL BE LISTED ON THE AELC WEBSITE.

Wednesday, 1 September, 10.00am. Women's Guild at the manse. Opening devotion: Jeannette Z. Choose a Bible Verse from Genesis 7. Item of Interest: Bring along your favourite dish and recipe.

Tuesday, 7 September, 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Oakey. Opening devotion: John.