

Australian Evangelical Lutheran Church
BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,
ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, TRINITY MARBURG, TRINITY OAKEY,
12 September 2021
16th Sunday after Pentecost

HYMNS: 411 326 449 156 v.5

INTROIT:

I love the LORD, because He hears my voice, my supplication for favour.
Because He has turned His ear to me, I shall call on Him as long as I live.
The cords of death encompassed me; the distresses of the grave took hold of me; I was experiencing affliction and torment.
But I kept calling on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, save my life!"
Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is compassionate.
The LORD protects simple people. When I was weak, He kept on saving me.
Return to your resting places, O my soul; for the LORD has been good to you.
For You have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.
I shall walk before the LORD in the lands of the living. Psalm 116:1-9

COLLECT: Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defence in every need, continue to preserve Your Church in safety, govern her by Your goodness, and bless her with Your peace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS:

Isaiah 50:4-10 The obedient Servant of the LORD.
James 3:1-12 Control your tongue.
Mark 9:14-29 The healing of a boy with an evil spirit.

SERMON: Mark 9:14-29 BRING THEM TO JESUS

Welcome to all worshipping with us today! Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 0407583922.
Email him at pziebell@gmail.com or to the church office at ddaalc@gmail.com.
Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.

Words Mean Things: “Faith”

Pistis, a sort of funny sounding Greek word, is highly important in the New Testament and in the lives of believers. Simply, and correctly translated, it means **faith**. It is derived from *pietho*, which means to be persuaded. Thus the Greek concept of faith as used in the New Testament is to be persuaded to the level of absolute confidence. This is frequently expressed, as in our Creeds, with the affirmation, ‘I believe.’

One needs to be careful, however, in how and when, and to what degree we express our faith in the word believe.

For example, we believe that when we flip the little switch on the wall, the light will come on, but we have perhaps been through too many thunderstorms in the past to expect that that belief, trust, and confidence to be absolute. As a Christian, on the other hand, we are convinced beyond any doubt whatsoever that Jesus is the Messiah, that He did die and rise for us, ascended into heaven, and has and will come again to take me, and all believers, with Himself, that where He is we may be also.

How, then, is it that so many are led into unquestionable belief, what we call faith, in false religion, false gods, and are so completely convinced in their belief?

That would be the work of the devil of whom Jesus says in John 8, “*He is a liar and the father of lies,*” (v. 44). And a convincing liar at that. It began in the Garden of Eden when he said to Eve, “*you will not surely die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil*” (Gen. 3:4-5). That was a truth, “*your eyes will be opened*” was true, “*knowing good and evil*” was true. That was a half-truth. “*You will be like God*” was a shrouded lie/half-truth. Adam and Eve ‘knew,’ EVERYTHING good, blessed, and wonderful, and decided they wanted to also know ‘evil’, suffering, pain, sorrow, loss, and a whole lot more, even death. “*You will not surely die*” is the beginning of ‘the big lie.’

Satan was and still is willing, even eager, to contradict God, but is so very clever in doing so. He knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows our weakest weakness and knows just how to appeal to it. He knows when we are at our lowest low point and knows how to take advantage of it. He knows full well that the weaknesses of our flesh make us really vulnerable to his lies.

Sin 'looks like' fun to the flesh, and he plays on that. Within his toolbox everything is framed in the context of lies and/or half-truths.

That would indicate that our defence has to consist of an absolute conviction of the truth of God's Word. We call that faith, and it is faith that needs to be exercised at all times. So what? How do I do that? To be very Lutheran, what does this mean? It means that we must see to it as Paul said to the believers in Colossae "...let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly!" (Col. 3:16). That would indicate that to have and nourish a strong, healthy faith which is able to fend off the lying, deceitful tricks and temptations of the devil, we should, we need to have daily devotions, a life permeated with prayer, and stubborn determination to be in/at Sunday morning worship, every week.

I have checked. Where attendance at Sunday worship is concerned the Bible gives frequent and strong command, encouragement and incentive. The devil's excuse book is about four to five times thicker than the Bible. No matter what, he has at least three nice sounding excuses to miss, even avoid daily devotions and Sunday worship.

Remember the promise and encouragement, "*Resist the devil, and he will flee from you*" (James 4:6). Again, "*Resist him, firm in your faith*" (1 Peter 5:9). How, then, does one resist? By reading the Word of God daily and by regular, faithful attendance at Sunday worship in which we have the added powerful benefit of the sacrament. Faith. "*Faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ*" Romans 10:17. See you in church.

COMING SERVICES

19 September 17 Pentecost	26 September 18 Pentecost	3 October 19 Pentecost
9.30am OAK HC followed by Bible Study 9.00am TMBA LR 9.00am MARBURG LR	8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA HC & Bible Study 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am MARBURG LR	9.00am TMBA LR 10.00am MARBURG HC and Sunday School Picnic (Downs Parish members invited)
Sunday, 19 September		
READINGS: Jeremiah 11:18-20; James 3:13-4:10; Mark 9:30-37		
HYMNS: 503 356 605 (85 291) 434		
Sunday, 26 September		
READINGS: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; James 5:1-20; Mark 9:38-50		
HYMNS: 119 338 341 (840) 346		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, 14 September, 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Oakey. Opening devotion: John.

Choir Practice tonight at Oakey at 7.30pm. Next choir practice for members below the range will be on Sunday the 3rd of October after service.

At a recent parish meeting, discussion was held on a revised service schedule. Beginning September 19, a new schedule will be trialled. We hope to let it run for the rest of the year so as to give sufficient time to see if it will work, and to fine tune it if needed, or to scrap altogether. However, it will be further discussed at the next CoC meeting, to be held on Saturday, October 23 at Lowood.

Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at www.aelc.org.au. Weekly Sunday School lessons are also now available in the Members section.

If there are any late changes to be made to divine services due to covid lockdowns, these will be listed immediately on the website. If you are unsure, please contact pastor.