

Australian Evangelical Lutheran Church
BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,
ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, TRINITY MARBURG, TRINITY OAKEY,
26 September 2021
18th Sunday after Pentecost

HYMNS: 119 338 341 346

INTROIT:

All of them wait for You to give them their food at the right time.
You give it to them, and they gather it up. You open Your hand, and they
are satisfied with good things.
You hide Your face, and they are terrified. You take away their breath,
and they expire and return to their dust.
You send out Your Spirit, and they are created, and You renew the surface
of the earth.
May the glory of the LORD endure for ever! May the LORD rejoice in what
He has made!
He looks at the earth, and it trembles. He touches the mountains, and
they smoke.
Let me sing to the LORD throughout my life! Let me sing praise to my God
all my life!
May my meditation be pleasing to Him! I shall rejoice in the LORD.
May sinners perish from the earth, and may there no longer be any
wicked people! Bless the LORD, O my soul! **Praise the LORD!**

Psalm 104:27-35

COLLECT: Everlasting Father, source of every blessing, mercifully direct
and govern us by Your Holy Spirit that we may complete the works You
have prepared for us to do; 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: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 Moses chooses seventy leaders.
James 5:1-20 The power of prayer, and the duty to bring back the lost.
Mark 9:38-50 The unknown exorcist, and temptations to sin.

SERMON: Romans 12:1-2, 9-13 LIFE UNDER THE CROSS

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

We must fight sin

Our Lord uses graphic expressions to teach His disciples and us how important it is to fight sin. Sin leads to hell. In our Gospel for today, Mark 9:38-50, there is a section where Jesus uses the pictures of Isaiah 66:24 to describe hell. It's the place of eternal torment. He says that hell is the place where *"their worm does not die, and the fire is not put out"* (Mark 9:48).

To "go into hell" is what will happen when we choose that which is evil. To "be thrown into hell" is to be condemned to hell; God pronounces the judgment. That is what all face who sell out to sin.

What price are we willing to pay to avoid hell? Jesus says we should be ready to cut off our hands, cut off our feet, and pluck out our eyes. Are these words to be taken literally? Note that Christ says, *"If your hand ... if your foot ... if your eye causes you to sin."* Is it really the hand, the foot, or the eye that does so? If so, what about the remaining foot, the other hand, or the other eye? Earlier Jesus had given His disciples the key to understanding these words when He said, *"Do you not know that nothing that comes into a person from the outside can defile him, because it does not go into his heart but into his stomach and goes out into the toilet?"* — In saying this, Jesus declared all foods "clean." — He went on to say: *"What comes out of a person is the thing that defiles him. For from inside, out of people's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual sins, thefts, murders, adulteries, sinful desires, greed, wickedness, cheating, shameless lust, a jealous eye, slander, pride and folly. All these evils come from inside and 'defile' a person"* (7:18-23). It is a person's heart that is the source of sin, though the hand, the foot, or the eye may be used to commit the sin. Jesus uses pictorial words lest we take sin lightly.

So what then if, as a result of avoiding sin, we don't get everything out of life our evil hearts desire and we enter life crippled? Remember, we are entering life - eternal life, the kingdom of God. That's worth any and every sacrifice. In heaven there are no cripples. Paul wrote to the Philippians, *"He will change our humble bodies and make them like His glorified body, because He has the power by which He can make everything subordinate to Himself"* (3:21).

Jesus also points out how sin is overcome. He uses another figure of speech - salt used to make food palatable and to preserve it. Sometimes this salt will burn like fire. What can this salt be? It is God's Word, whose Law burns and whose Gospel heals. Christ also warns that this salt is to be used as God has given it. If it is desalted, as many modern theologians attempt, it will not do what God wants it to do. Then the case is hopeless. Take God's Word into your heart as it is, and you will have salt in yourself. By means of it, you will also be able to be at peace with one another - a reference to the argument the disciples had earlier had about who was the greatest.

What about being at peace with ourselves? Although we fight against sin, we can never overcome it completely. Is our case hopeless? No, Christ had already assured His disciples that He can and does forgive sins. Earlier, four men had carried a paralytic man to Jesus in order for Him to heal the man. Since they could not reach Jesus because of the crowd, they opened the roof over where Jesus was and let the paralytic man down on the mat he was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "*Son, your sins are forgiven.*"⁶ *Some of the scribes were sitting there and thought to themselves:*⁷ "*Why is this Man speaking like this? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?*"⁸ *Jesus immediately knew in His spirit that they were thinking to themselves like this. He asked them, "Why do you have these thoughts in your hearts?"*⁹ *Which is easier: to say to the paralysed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk!'*¹⁰ "*You should know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins!*" *Then He said to the paralysed man,*¹¹ "*I tell you, get up, take your mat and go to your home!*" (2:5-10).

That is why Jesus has come, and that is why He was now going to Jerusalem to suffer and die and rise again. But, as these words of Jesus show, the fact that we have forgiveness in Him dare never move us to take sin lightly!

COMING SERVICES

3 October 19 Pentecost	10 October 20 Pentecost	17 October 21 Pentecost
9.00am TMBA LR 10.00am MARBURG HC and Sunday School Picnic (Downs Parish members invited)	8.30am OAK HC 9.00am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.30am GRN HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR	8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA HC 9.00am GRN LR 10.45am AUB HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR
Sunday, 3 October		
READINGS: Genesis 2:18-25; Hebrews 2:1-18; Mark 10:2-16		
HYMNS: 276 893 621 789 285 604 TMBA: 504 893 621 604		
Sunday, 10 October		
READINGS: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Hebrews 3:12-19; Mark 10:17-22		
HYMNS: 305 359 332 (282 283) 645		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Next Sunday, 3 October. Please bring along something for a shared lunch for our Sunday School picnic at Marburg. Also, place your collection into envelopes marked back to your own congregation. Families with children, *please come along!!*

Wednesday, 6 October. 10.00am. Women's Guild at Marburg. *Opening devotion:* Jane. *Choose a Bible verse from:* Genesis 8. *Item of Interest:* Australia or Australiana.

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.