**Australian Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD, ST JOHN’S AUBIGNY,**

**ST PAUL’S GREENWOOD, TRINITY MARBURG, TRINITY OAKEY**

16 January 2022

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany of our Lord

**HYMNS:** 47 16 45 749

**INTROIT:**

Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in His Ways!

You will certainly eat what your own hands have worked for. You will be blessed, and it will be well with you.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine inside your house. Your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

This is how the man who fears the LORD will be blessed.

May the LORD bless you from Zion, that you may see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life!

May you see your children’s children! Peace be on Israel!

Psalm 128

**COLLECT:** Almighty and everlasting God, because You govern all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people, and grant us Your peace through all our days; 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:** Isaiah 62:1-5 The nations will see Your righteousness.

 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 Spiritual gifts are given to individuals.

 John 2:1-11 Jesus’ first miraculous sign in Galilee.

**SERMON:** Isaiah 62:1-5 THE LORD OUR BIDEGROOM

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

Email him at paziebell@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.**

**The Consequences of Denying Inspiration**

The satanic attack on Scripture has taken its toll on many churches, especially those with a history of affirming some passages of Scripture while explaining away others. As a result, practicing Christians make up a far smaller portion of our population than they previously did, and many who pass themselves off as Christian scholars do not feel bound to regard anything the Bible says as sacred.

One very visible aspect of that departure from Scripture is the world’s denial of the first chapters of Genesis - God’s record of creation, and the age of the earth. Because that denial is forcefully advanced many are taken in by it. Nevertheless, the words, “*He who is from God listens to God’s Words. The reason why you do not listen is that you are not from God*” (John 8:47) tell us that those who reject what the Bible says about Creation are not of God.

What Christians who have bought into the lie of evolution and millions of years fail to realise is that by rejecting what the Bible says about God creating all things in six days, they are rejecting the God who has made everything. “*For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and everything that is in them but rested on the seventh day*” (Exodus 20:11). They replace Him with a god of their own fabrication - a god who used evolution. In short, they change “*the truth of God for the lie*,” (Romans 1:25). As a result, those churches that reject the Genesis record, eventually slide down the slippery slope of rejecting the truth of Christ’s virgin birth, His atoning sacrifice, and His resurrection while going on to condone all sorts of satanic behaviour (immorality, abortion, homosexuality and even the farce of homosexual “marriage”).

To all of the so-called Christians who have gone that route, God says, “*They commit adultery and live deceitfully. They encourage those who do evil, so that no one turns from his wickedness. All of them have become like Sodom to Me. Those who are living in Jerusalem have become like Gomorrah*” (Jeremiah 23:14).

The words, “*The saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance: that Christ Jesus has come into the world to save sinners*” (1 Timothy 1:15) tell us that the very reason Christ has come into the world was to save sinners. However, those who reject the Bible’s record of creation and the fall have no reason to believe the Bible when it says, “*Therefore, as sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, so death also spread to all people, since all have sinned*” (Romans 5:12) and, therefore, have no reason to believe the Bible when it says, “*Therefore, as through one man’s transgression judgment came to all people, resulting in condemnation, so also, through One Man’s righteous act, the free gift came to all people, resulting in justification, which brings life*” (Romans 5:18). In short, rejecting what the Bible says about creation and the fall undermines the Gospel.

The words, “*Faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ*,” “*For you have been born again, not from a seed that can perish but from one that cannot perish, through the Word of God, which lives and remains*,” and “*He gave birth to us by the Word of truth*,” all tell us that those who reject God’s Word cut themselves off from God’s “gift” of faith and eternal life (Romans 10:17, 1 Peter 1:23, James 1:18).

The words, “*If you remain in Me, and My Words remain in you, ask for whatever you wish! It will be done for you*” (John 15:7), tell us that those who reject God’s Word forfeit Christ’s promise of answered prayer. And, the words, “*Truly, truly, I tell you, if anyone keeps My Word, he will certainly never see death*” (John 8:51) tell us that those who reject God’s Word forfeit the promise of never seeing death.

The words, “*You have the words of eternal life*” (John 6:68), tell us that God’s words are the source of eternal life. The words, “*Make them holy by the truth! Your Word is truth*” (John 17:17) tell us that we are sanctified through the Word of God. The words, “*Rather, blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it!*” (Luke 11:28), tell us that God’s Word is a source of blessing. And, the words, “*Truly, truly, I tell you that he who listens to My Word and believes Him who has sent Me has eternal life*” give all who trust in God’s Word His own promise that we “*will not come into judgment*” (John 5:24).

Lastly, those who reject God’s word, reject, “*The wisdom that comes from above*” (James 3:17), the wisdom, “*that God ordained before the ages for our glory*,” the wisdom that “*None of those who rule this world has known. For, if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory*,” the wisdom of which it is said, “*No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has comprehended what God has prepared for those who love Him*” (1 Corinthians 2:7-9).

The future of all who reject those blessings of God’s Word is described in the words, “*It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God*” (Hebrews 10:31).

**COMING SERVICES**

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| **23 January** | **30 January** | **6 February** |
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| 9.00am TMBA LR9.30am AUB LR9.00am MARBURG LR**23 January**9.30am OAK HC Confirmation Service (GRN invited to Oakey) | 8.30am OAK LR9.00am TMBA HC9.00am GRN LR10.45am AUB HC9.00am LOWOOD LR | 8.30am OAK LR9.00am TMBA LR9.00am GRN LR9.30am AUB LR9.00am MARBURG HC |
| **Sunday, 23 January** |
| READINGS: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:16-30 |
| HYMNS: 4 217 100 267OAKEY: 301 217 296 311 285 297 |
| **Sunday, 30 January** |
| READINGS: Jeremiah 1:4-19; 1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13; Luke 4:31-44 |
| HYMNS: 377 239 354 (71 291) 822 |

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**