

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

20 February 2022

The 7th Sunday after the Epiphany of our Lord

HYMNS: 42 431 479 339

INTROIT: Bless the LORD, O my soul and, all my inmost being, bless His holy name!

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all His benefits!

He forgives all your iniquities. He heals all your diseases.

He redeems your life from the pit. He crowns you with mercy and compassion.

He satisfies what adorns you with good things, so that you renew your youth like the eagle.

The LORD carries out acts of righteousness and of justice for all who are oppressed.

He has made known His Ways to Moses, His deeds to the people of Israel.

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to become angry and abounding in mercy.

He will not always accuse and will not keep on being angry for ever.

He has not treated us as our sins deserve and has not paid us back according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him.

As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has had compassion on those who fear Him.

Psalm 103:1-13

COLLECT: O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; 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: Genesis 45:3-15 He kissed all his brothers.
1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42 We shall all be changed!
Luke 6:27-38 Treat others as you want them to treat you.

SERMON: Resurrected Bodies 1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42

Abortion the World's Leading Cause of Death . . . Again

What was the leading cause of death worldwide in 2021? Well, the same as it was in 2020. Of course, ultimately, it's because of sin! But what's the leading cause of death from a number's perspective in today's world? It was an utterly unnatural cause of death that only affects the most vulnerable. It wasn't COVID-19. What was it? Abortion. That's right, abortion was yet again the leading cause of death both globally and here in Australia last year.

According to *The Christian Post*, 42.6 million unborn children lost their lives to abortion in 2021 alone (These are official figures. The true amount is much higher). Combined with other deaths, 100 million people died last year - nearly half dying because they were murdered in their mother's wombs. How does this number of deaths compare to the other leading causes of death?

By contrast, only 13 million people perished of communicable diseases, the second-leading cause of death last year. The other leading causes of death paled in comparison to abortion, with 8.2 million people dying of cancer worldwide, nearly 5 million deaths caused by smoking, approximately 2.5 million alcohol-related deaths, nearly 1.7 million people succumbing to HIV/AIDS, more than 1.3 million people dying in traffic accidents, and nearly 1.1 million suicides worldwide.

Here in Australia, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, coronary heart disease is listed as the number one cause of death. Some 17, 731 people lost their lives to this disease last year. Abortions aren't even listed, as there is no standardised national data collection on unplanned pregnancy and abortion in Australia, and different states have different laws and regulations – and therefore different reporting mechanisms regarding abortion procedures, but it has been estimated that around 100, 000 children lose their lives through abortion each year – 5 times the rate of heart disease.

Our culture, here in Australia and in many other nations around the world, continues to be a culture of death. How can we combat the prevailing belief that unborn lives have no rights and can be disposed of at the whim of the mother or someone else? By sharing biblical truth and the gospel message with everyone!

Body, Soul, and Spirit

God created man, male and female, in His image (Genesis 1:27). God is spirit (John 4:24) and is essentially invisible (John 1:18, 1 Timothy 6:16).

Man is also invisible. Man has a body, but man is a soul. Your soul is your personality, your character, your desires, your beliefs, your essence. It lives on after your body dies. You can't kill it. (Suicide is a lie. It is futile. You can't annihilate your soul. It is immortal, invisible).

Those who are born again of water and the Spirit, also have a spirit. (An unbeliever may be possessed or influenced by an evil spirit, but the spirit is alive only in true believers.) Your soul and your spirit are not the same. There is a division between the soul and the spirit (Hebrews 4:12).

So a Christian has a body, a soul, and a spirit. Two of those three are invisible. No doctor of the body can treat or even find your soul and spirit. You are invisible, created in the image of God. But your body will reflect the image of God when Christ lives in you, for "Christ is the image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15).

"So do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear Him (God) who can destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28). When your body dies, you don't want to hear: "Fool, this night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be? So is the one who lays up treasure for himself but is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:20-21).

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful. He will surely do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24).

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.

COMING SERVICES

27 February The Transfiguration	ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES	6 March 1 LENT
8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD HC	Wednesday, 2 nd March 7.30pm OAK Vespers Thursday, 3 rd March 7.00pm MARBURG HC	8.30am OAK HC 9.00am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.15am GRN HC 9.00am MARBURG LR
Sunday, 27 February		
READINGS: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Hebrews 3:1-6; Luke 9:28-36		
HYMNS: 43 37 747 (840 291) 164		
Ash Wednesday, 2/3 March		
READINGS: (Marburg: Joel 2:12-19; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21)		
HYMNS: OAK Wednesday 2: 305 310 54 48 v.1 MARBURG Thursday 3: 305 310 346 53 54 48 v.1		
Sunday, 6 March		
READINGS: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13		
HYMNS: 49 195 341 (791 291) 756		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thursday, 24 February, 10.00am. Bible Study at Lowood.

Wednesday, 2 March. 10.00am. Women's Guild at Toowoomba. Opening Devotion: *Jenny*. Choose a Bible verse from Exodus chapter 1-4. Item of Interest: *A poem to recite*.

Annual General Meeting dates:

Parish AGM:

Our Saviour Lowood: Sunday, 27 February after service.

Trinity Oakey: Sunday, 6 March, 1.00pm.

Trinity Marburg: Sunday, 20 March after service.