

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

1 May, 2022

Third Sunday of Easter

**HYMNS:** 386 336 113 434

**INTROIT:** I shall extol You, O LORD, for You have lifted me out of the depths, and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.

O LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and You healed me.

O LORD, You brought my soul up from the grave; You kept me alive, that I might not go down to the pit.

Sing praise to the LORD, You saints of His, and give thanks as you remember His holiness.

For His anger lasts for only a moment. His favour lasts for a life-time. Weeping may last for the evening, but there is a shout of joy in the morning. When I was at ease, I said, "I shall never be shaken."

LORD, by Your favour, You have made my mountain stand strong; You hid Your face, and I was terrified.

I shall call out to You, O LORD. I shall plead to the LORD for grace: "What profit is there if my blood is shed, when I go down into the pit? Will dust praise You? Will it proclaim Your truth?

Hear, O LORD, and have mercy on me; LORD, be my Helper!"

You have changed my rites of mourning into dancing. You have removed my sackcloth and You have clothed me with joy, so that what is glorious may praise You with music and may not be silent. O LORD my God, I shall praise You for ever.

Psalm 30

**COLLECT:** O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**READINGS:** Acts 9:1-22 Jesus converts Paul.

Revelation 5:1-14 The Lamb, who was slain, is worthy to receive praise.

John 21:1-19 It is the Lord!

**SERMON:** John 21:1-19 JESUS RESTORES US WITH HIS GRACE

## **The Exception Proves the Rule**

The power of the resurrection stands in the hands of Him who died. Not only did He rise from the dead, but Jesus also raised those who were in need of His life, as a sign and proof of His future resurrection and ours.

In raising the dead Jesus showed His passionate love for those who suffered most when death came among them. He returns to women their men, when they had need of a protector and supporter in the daily life of first century Judaism. Jesus sees to the need of the widow and the fatherless by raising the widow's son (Luke 7:11-17) and the brother of Mary and Martha (John 11). He has compassion on the widow and fatherless as the God who is moved to tears by their suffering (John 11:35) and will not leave them alone in their grief. He has power over death because His is the indestructible life, who in His death conveys life to a dying world. The resurrection of the widow's son and Lazarus are the exceptions that prove the rule.

The rule is that those who are in Christ will live, because they have been baptised into His death and His life. The divine expression of life that comes in Jesus' earthly ministry tells us how we shall stand in our death, and how our loved ones will stand when we die. Jesus is with us and with them as death's death and life's life.

Jesus stops the career of death dead in its bier-carrying tracks. Often traffic will stop or at least keep their distance when a funeral cortege appears. People switch their headlights on as a sign of respect. No one really wants to interrupt a funeral cortege. So when Jesus does not just stand aside when the open coffin of the young man comes out of town wending its way to the town cemetery, He is breaking a major community taboo. Instead, He steps right into the way of the procession and forces it to stop. No, it will not arrive before the open mouth of the tomb. Jesus' interruption may well have heightened the grief of the widow who was following her only son to his final resting place. What right had this stranger to intervene in their funeral rites?

Not only does Jesus stop the career of death just outside the gates of Nain, He grasps death by the throat by placing His hand upon the open

coffin. In that way, He comes into contact with death in a way no Jew would do, except for the highest necessity. That necessity was providing funeral rites for loved ones. Contact with death made those who permitted it ritually unclean. Cleansing had to follow, before God could be approached. The God who is life could not abide in His holy presence those tainted by death (Lev 11:31-32). Jesus stops the procession with the open coffin with His hand, that death's whole uncleanness might be absorbed by Him for our sakes. He becomes unclean with death to take away death's sting when He absorbs death into Himself. His Father cannot abide His presence, and yet He comes to the holy of holies of the cross fitted in death's dress. The Father kills death in Him. He dies that He may make a mockery and by-word of death by rising from the dead on Easter Sunday morning. Life and death clash and life is the victor for us. He raises the young man of Nain as a foretaste of the resurrection of all flesh yet to come. Jesus tells us how we and our loved ones will stand at death by defeating it. He is the exception that certainly proves the rule.

Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at [www.aelc.org.au](http://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, these will be listed immediately on the website. If you are unsure, please contact pastor.

*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 [ddaalc@gmail.com](mailto:ddaalc@gmail.com).

**Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.**

## COMING SERVICES

<b>8 May 4 EASTER</b>	<b>15 May 5 EASTER</b>	<b>22 May 6 EASTER</b>
8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD HC & Bible Study	8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am MARBURG PR & Baptism	8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA HC 9.00am GRN LR 10.45am AUB HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR
<b>Sunday, 8 May</b>		
READINGS: Acts 20:17-35; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30		
HYMNS: 97 391 400 (771 289) 602		
<b>Sunday, 15 May</b>		
READINGS: Acts 11:1-18; Revelation 21:1-7; John 16:12-22		
HYMNS: 101 329 413 621 MARBURG: 277 101 413 621		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note the changes to the service schedule over the coming weeks.

Wednesday, 4 May, 10.00am. Women's Guild at Lowood. Opening Devotion: Jeanette. Choose a Bible verse from Exodus 9-14. Item of interest: Story or photo of family pet.

Saturday, 7 May, 10.00am. CoC/Sem meeting at Bethlehem Toowoomba. Please note: This is the AGM and election of office bearers will take place, so all delegates are urged to attend. Any agenda items, please place through your reps.

Next Sunday, 8 May. Immediately after service a quick discussion will take place to decide what to do with remaining funds in the parish account.

Sunday, 15 May. A shared morning tea will be held after the service.