

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

15 May, 2022

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

HYMNS: 101 329 413 621

INTROIT: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens! Praise Him in the heights above!

Praise Him, all you His angels! Praise Him, all His hosts!

Praise Him, sun and moon! Praise Him, all you stars of light!

Praise Him, you heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD! For He commanded, and they were created.

He set them in position for ever and ever. He gave a decree that will not pass away.

Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, fire and hail, snow and fog, wind and storm, which carry out His Word, you mountains and all hills, you fruit trees and all cedars, you wild animals and all cattle, you reptiles and winged birds, you kings of the earth and all peoples, you princes and all judges on the earth, you young men and also you maidens, you old men together with young people!

Let them praise the name of the LORD! For His name alone is exalted. His majesty is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for His people, praise from all His devout people, from the people of Israel, the people who are close to Him! Praise the LORD!

Psalm 148

COLLECT: O God, You make the minds of Your faithful people to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; 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: Acts 11:1-18 "Therefore, God has given repentance to life even to the Gentiles."

Revelation 21:1-7 "I saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem"

John 16:12-22 "When the Spirit of Truth comes, He will lead you into the whole truth."

SERMON: John 16:12-22 A Little While

Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at www.aclc.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.

IS GOD FAIR?

“Yet the family of Israel says, ‘The behaviour of the Lord is not fair.’ Are the ways in which I behave not fair, family of Israel? Are your ways not the ones that are unfair?”

³⁰ *“Therefore, family of Israel, I shall judge each of you according to his conduct,” declares the Lord GOD. “Repent and turn away from all your rebellious acts, that sin may not cause your down-fall. ³¹ Cast away from you all your rebellious acts, which you have been committing! Make yourselves new hearts and new spirits. Why should you die, O family of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies,” declares the Lord GOD. “Therefore, repent and live!” (Ezekiel 18:29-32).*

There are people who say that they have lost all faith in God because there are so many evils, so much hurt and heartache in the world all around us. Sometimes we see innocent people suffering and godly people being persecuted while at the same time wicked and godless people seem to prosper. All this happens in the world that God created. We are tempted to ask a searching question: “Is God fair?”

The people of Israel accused God of not being fair. Rebellious people, as they repeatedly were, thought that they could rise up against the holy, almighty God and accuse Him of doing things that were not fair! The Lord could not remain silent. He had to set the record straight, as we say. He said, *“Are the ways in which I behave not fair, family of Israel? Are your ways not the ones that are unfair?”*

Today, too, there are people who want to find fault with the holy and just God. How often have you heard people say, “Why does God allow this or that to happen to me or to someone else? If God is almighty, why doesn’t He put an end to all of this wickedness in the world? Is He really fair?”

If you really want an answer to the question, “Is God fair?” then let God speak for Himself, which He does in Holy Scripture. Search the Scriptures, and you will discover that God is not only fair, but He has gone far beyond being fair in all of His dealings with people. God is much more than fair! God’s Word tells us that all of the evil in this world is not of God’s making. He created a perfect world, and all of the evil in the world is of people’s making. Our first parents listened to the devil and sinned. Then sorrow and sickness, hurt and heartache, disease and death, and everything that is evil came into the world. You cannot lay any evil at God’s doorstep! For all of the evil in the world, we have ourselves to blame. Now what?

Don’t shake your fist in God’s face! Listen to God, who tells you that He will give you a new heart and a new spirit. Turn to God and receive from His forgiving lips the assurance of peace and pardon. The Lord takes no pleasure in seeing the wicked and the ungodly dying. “*‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘I certainly take no pleasure in the death of a wicked person. Rather, I take pleasure in the wicked person’s turning from his way that he may live. Turn back! Turn back from your evil ways!’*” (Ezekiel 33:11). “*The Lord is not slow to keep what He has promised, as some people understand slowness. Rather, He is patient with you, because He does not want any to be lost but wants all to come to repentance*” (2 Peter 3:9).

God is not only fair, He is exceedingly loving. He so loved you and all people that He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, into the world. Jesus lived the perfect life in our place. He took our sins in His own body to the cross and suffered and died to redeem us. He rose from the dead and conquered death and the devil. He invites us to believe and trust in Him, and He promises, “*Because I live, you also will live*” John 14:19.

Welcome to all worshipping with us today!

Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 0407583922.

Email him at paziebell@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.

COMING SERVICES

22 May 6 EASTER	29 May ASCENSION DAY	5 June PENTECOST
8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA HC & Bible Study 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD LR	9.00am OAK LR 10.00am HC AELC Service at Marburg	8.30am OAK HC 9.00am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.15am GRN HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR
Sunday, 22 May		
READINGS: Acts 16:9-15;	Revelation 21:9-14, 21-27;	John 16:23-33
HYMNS: 500 322 425 (789 291) 646		
Sunday, 29 May		
READINGS: Acts 1:1-11;	Ephesians 1:15-23;	Luke 24:44-53
HYMNS: 111 114 788 (159 285) 430		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, 22 May, 1.00pm. The Parish AGM will be held at Bethlehem Toowoomba.

Sunday, 29 May. An AELC service will be held at Trinity Marburg, followed by a shared lunch and fellowship. Please place your offering in an envelope marked back to your own congregation. Loose offering will go to the parish account. Please make the effort to come along!

BIBLE STUDIES for MAY:

Friday 20, 7.30pm at Greenwood.

Sunday 22, after service at Toowoomba.

Thursday 26, 10.00am at Marburg.

Friday 27, 7.30pm Aub/Oak at Oakey.