

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

5 June 2022

Pentecost

HYMNS: 129 121 446 122

INTROIT: O LORD, listen to my prayer! Open Your ears to my pleas for favour! Answer me in Your faithfulness and in Your righteousness!

Do not bring Your servant into judgment! For in Your sight there is no one alive who is righteous.

For the enemy has been pursuing my life. He has crushed my life to the ground. He has been making me live in dark places, like those who have died long ago.

Therefore, my spirit inside me has become faint. My heart inside me has been overcome with numbness.

I remember the days of long ago. I have been meditating on all that You have done. I am meditating on what Your hands have done.

I have been spreading out my hands to You. My soul is thirsting for You like a parched land.

Answer me quickly, O LORD! My spirit has been wasting away. Do not hide Your face from me or I shall be like those who are going down into the pit!

Cause me to hear about Your mercy in the morning! For I trust in You. Cause me to know the way on which I should go! For I have been lifting up my soul to You.

Rescue me from my enemies, O LORD! I have come to You to conceal myself away.

Teach me to do what You desire! For You are my God. May Your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

For Your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life! In Your righteousness, bring my soul out of trouble!

In Your mercy You will silence my enemies and destroy all who are hostile toward me! For I am Your servant. Psalm 143

COLLECT: O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; 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 11:1-9 The confusion of languages.

Acts 2:1-21 The Holy Spirit comes to a hundred and twenty disciples.

John 14:23-31 Jesus promises another Advocate to be with us for ever.

SERMON: Acts 2:1-21

EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED

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.

THE RESURRECTION IS PRACTICAL

The resurrection is practical. In fact, there is nothing more practical on earth. Resurrection means to be raised from the dead. So, even though one dies, it does not mean the end. It makes death temporary. It is our hope. After all, Christians do not get ahead in this life because of their faith.

We live, if we believe in Christ's forgiveness, knowing that we shall be raised by Christ. No matter what happens here, the spectre of death, our enemy, cannot overwhelm our victory in Christ. Sin has already been defeated and grace reigns in our Lord. And even now we live in Him, partaking of His righteousness, having been grafted into His body. So Christ's resurrection is not just a historical fact, or a long-ago memory, distant from our daily life. We who are dying and oppressed by sin are offered Christ's life - His own resurrection glory. So whoever turns from sin to Christ, truly lives. We do not necessarily live longer, suffer less, or have fewer difficulties - in fact, it is usually the opposite. But if we are raised, we suffer temporarily in the hope of life with Christ after we die. We shall be resurrected, following the pattern of Christ. This is the antidote to death, and gives meaning to everything in this sinful world. Without the teaching of resurrection, there is no true Christianity or salvation, but only an earthly and miserable pile of death: "*If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied*" (1 Cor. 15:19). We suffer for a short time, knowing that our goal is life eternal, which is only by the resurrection from the dead to glory.

Christ's resurrection is your resurrection. Jesus is life itself, in whom none are lost: "*I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?*" Our faith is not in a dead god, or a far away deity who cannot listen or help us - we have a specific God - Jesus, the Lord, who lives for us. His life is now ours, being communicated in the Word of forgiveness. Our faith is in God who is good and kind, because Jesus the Son of God took our place under the penalty of death, and rose from humanity's death for us. His life is now ours. His resurrection is our salvation from death and every last shred of guilt. Death is not your concern now, nor anything evil in this world.

So no one can gainsay your resurrection life. It is safe in Christ, having been already accomplished. No doctor can say you will not live forever. No problems or suffering can tell you that your life is over or not worth living - because Christ died and rose to never die again, in your place. Death is defeated for you. Christ's resurrection marks the completion of your salvation. Life is disbursed in the Word of God you hear. It is yours to have and to hold onto. It changes how every day is lived. No longer are you defeated and oppressed by sin, Christ has won life and it shines through in all we do, living in victory over hell and all punishment. We are rescued, since resurrection is certain and Christ does not lie. It is our life and the fact of our existence to be used against all troubles, evils, and the stings of death we face daily. It is eminently practical, because Christians are presented with death, the result of our sin, every day. Satan will not let us escape temptation and our flesh is with us until we die.

We do not see this victory right now, since we live by faith. We wait for it, knowing that Christ died for our sin before He was resurrected. So do not try to escape death or think it should be avoided for as long as possible. We need death, because without it, sin reigns. There is no resurrection without there first being a death to sin. You were baptised into Christ's death for all sin, in order that you would be raised with Christ also. *"For if we have been united with him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him... So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus"* (Rom. 6:6-11).

We die daily, continuing in our baptism, to live with Christ as resurrected. But no one dies to sin without gaining something much more than problems and daily dying. We live for Christ, not to get ahead in this world or find an easier life, but to please the Lord Jesus, who is the Lord over death. We serve and obey Him, without fear, already being resurrected in our mind - dead to sin and alive to Christ. We simply await the resurrection of the body, already having the news of peace with God. For we know who will judge the living and dead - Christ, who is our Lord. And He cannot deny us, since we are His right now who has already destroyed death and shattered its dominion. So we live for Him in thanks, not being afraid of suffering for doing right. His call alone gives true confidence in the face of all trials.

What we look and feel like now is not how things after the resurrection will be. Because true life in God does not end or disappoint, we must have an endpoint that lasts. This is what the Christian hope rests in: the resurrection beyond all sinful, earthly things.

Because Jesus lives, you also will live, since you will be raised to glory - like Christ is now. Christ is risen - let this be the most practical fact of your life, each and every day.

COMING SERVICES

**PLEASE ALWAYS CHECK YOUR BULLETINS FOR ANY LATE CHANGES –
THEY CAN HAPPEN!!!**

12 June TRINITY SUNDAY	19 June 2 PENTECOST	26 June 3 PENTECOST
8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA HC 9.00am GRN LR 10.45am AUB HC 9.00am MARBURG LR	8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD HC	9.30am O/G/A combined at Oakey. HC & Bible Study 9.00am MARBURG LR
Sunday, 12 June		
READINGS: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Acts 2:14a, 22-36; John 8:48-59		
HYMNS: 140 141 21 (313 323) 142		
Sunday, 19 June		
READINGS: Isaiah 65:1-9; Galatians 3:23-4:7; Luke 8:26-39		
HYMNS: 498 156 335 (840 842) 457		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, 7 June, 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Oakey. Opening devotion: Jeff.

BIBLE STUDIES for JUNE:

Sunday, 19 June. After service at Lowood.

Sunday, 26 June. O/A/G combined after service.

Pastor is organising a visit to members in the southern states sometime toward the end of June, early July. The dates are yet to be confirmed, however, there is possibly going to be a change to services for at least one Sunday. Keep an eye on your bulletins where this will be announced.