

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

10 July 2022

5th Sunday after Pentecost

HYMNS: 499 326 380 454

INTROIT:

Blessed is the one who pays close attention to the poor person! The LORD will rescue him in the day of trouble.

The LORD will preserve him and keep him alive, and he will be called fortunate in the land. Do not surrender him to what enemies want!

The LORD will support him on his sickbed. When he is ill, You will transform all his bedridden condition.

I myself have been saying: "O LORD, be gracious to me! Heal my soul! For I have been sinning against You."

My enemies are asking maliciously about me: "When will he die, and when will his name disappear?"

When one of them comes to visit me, he speaks what is worthless. His heart gathers what is evil. Then he goes outside and talks about it.

All who hate me are whispering together about me. They are planning harm for me and saying, "A devilish disease is being poured out for him. He will never get up again from the place where he has lain down."

Even My close friend, whom I trust, who has been eating My bread, has lifted up his heel against Me.

Nevertheless, You, O LORD, be gracious to me and raise me up, that I may repay them!

In this way I know that You take pleasure in me, that my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.

However, as for me, You have firmly grasped me in my integrity and You will set me in Your presence for ever.

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!
Amen and Amen. Psalm 41

COLLECT: Lord Jesus Christ, in Your deep compassion You rescue us from whatever may hurt us. Teach us to love You above all things and to love our neighbours as ourselves; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

SERMON: Luke 10:25-37 Love one another as I have loved you

READINGS: Leviticus (18:1-5) 19:9-18 Love your neighbour as yourself.
Colossians 1:1-14 About your love in the Spirit.
Gospel: Luke 10:25-37 The Samaritan took care of him

The Gospel

Strictly speaking there is really only one Means of Grace, and that is the Gospel (or Good News). This Gospel then takes different forms. It comes to us as the spoken and written Word, and in a different form, as the signed or sealed Word in the Sacraments. The Gospel itself remains primary. It is, as Luther often points out, the Word which gives substance and meaning to the Sacraments.

This Word of the Gospel, however, alone and of itself, that is, apart from any Sacraments, carries all spiritual power, and imparts the Holy Spirit, forgiveness, and all other blessings. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians that he had been sent to them not to baptise, but to preach the Gospel (his assistants no doubt performed the Baptisms), and that he had personally baptised no one but Crispus and Gaius, and the household of Stephanus (1 Corinthians 1:14-17). Yet the same Apostle calls himself the spiritual father of the Corinthians when he writes, *“I have become your father through the Gospel”* (4:15). That Gospel *“is the power of God to save everyone who believes it”* (Romans 1:16).

This Gospel must be clearly distinguished from the Law. Both Law and Gospel must be constantly applied to us, lest we sink either into smug pride and presumption or into despair and hopelessness. Anyone who has studied Dr. C.F.W. Walther’s great classic *Law and Gospel* (ask pastor for a copy!) - which cannot be recommended highly enough - will know that the proper distinction and application of Law and Gospel is not something which is easily mastered in five minutes. It is a Spirit-taught art, learnt in the hard school of prayer, study, and spiritual afflictions, and requires a lifelong application.

If we start neglecting the Law, the Gospel soon disappears too! Where the dreadful diagnosis is forgotten, even the sweetest medicine soon falls into disuse. And the Gospel, so precious to tortured consciences, parched for the waters of divine mercy and forgiveness, must ever be used to comfort the penitent - but never to make the impenitent comfortable in their impenitence! That would be casting pearls before swine (Matthew 7:6). Those who walk proudly and securely, satisfied with themselves and their spiritual condition, and do not with fear and trembling seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33), must be clearly told that they are not Christians but unbelievers and hypocrites, who have no part in the Kingdom of Christ.

“Salvation by grace alone through faith alone” must never become a lazy man’s pillow, upon which to sit and relax in false comfort and security! Faith alone saves, indeed, *but saving faith is never alone!* Even the thief on the cross, though converted only moments before his death, was full of holy zeal, confession, and thus good works, from the moment of his conversion! It is unfortunate today that too many Lutherans show by their lukewarm, spiritually sloppy and careless way of life that they have a false and twisted trust in “salvation by grace alone,” thus turning God’s gracious life-giving offer into a “*an aroma from death leading to death*” (2 Corinthians 2:16) for themselves! “*Whoever does not carry his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple*” (Luke 14:27) Jesus says.

The Gospel is doctrine. This may seem terribly obvious to us, but sadly, it is almost universally denied today. While orthodox, Biblical theology, together with our Lutheran Confessions, freely speaks of the “doctrine of the Gospel,” modern Liberal theology, having rejected the authority of Holy Scripture, knows no such things as definite, God-given doctrine, but only human “interpretations,” opinions, and the like. The “Gospel” therefore is regarded as somehow floating above and beyond all these more or less mistaken and sinful “interpretations.” This irrational mysticism, (though it is really the unbelief and scepticism of Satan who asked, “*Has God really said?*” (Genesis 3:1) and Pontius Pilate, who asked “*What is truth?*” (John 18:38)), often likes to cover its nakedness with Biblical-sounding expressions and phrases. But it is all sham and hypocrisy. The fact is that the Saviour commanded His Church to teach *definite* doctrine, namely, “*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations by baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and by teaching them to keep all that I have commanded you!*” (Matthew 28:19-20), not to fuss endlessly about human “insights,” and the like. And He promised His truth to His Church, “*If you remain in My Word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free*” (John 8:31-32). Theology is supposed to be men of God speaking to His people about Him. Sadly, today it appears more and more that it has become a matter of learned gentlemen writing for learned gentlemen about learned gentlemen! “*For a time will come when people will not endure sound doctrine. Instead, they will follow their own desires and, because they have itching ears, they will surround themselves more and more with teachers. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths*” (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

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

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

17 July 6 PENTECOST	24 July 7 PENTECOST	31 July 8 Pentecost
9.00am TMBA LR	8.30am OAK HC 9.00am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.15am GRN HC 9.00am MARBURG LR	8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA HC 9.30am GRN LR 10.45am AUB HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR
10.00am LOWOOD HC AELC Service		
Sunday, 17 July		
READINGS: Genesis 18:1-14; LOWOOD: Isaiah 62:1-7;	Colossians 1:21-29; Romans 10:11-17;	Luke 10:38-42 Luke 24:44-53
HYMNS: 364 153 230 239 LOWOOD: 224 219 230 333 56 239		
Sunday, 24 July		
READINGS: Genesis 18:17-33; Colossians 2:6-19; Luke 11:1-13		
HYMNS: 420 421 v:1-4 421 v:5-9 (352 839) 426		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, **13 July**, 10.00am. Women's Guild at Marburg. Opening Devotion: Pastor. Choose a Bible verse from Exodus 17-20. Item of Interest: a pretty scarf.

Tuesday, 19 July, 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Oakey. Opening devotion: John.

BIBLE STUDIES for JULY:

Greenwood. Friday, 22, 7.30pm.

Mar/Lowood. Thursday, 28, 10.00am at Marburg.

Aub/Oak. Friday, 29, 7.30pm at Aubigny.

While pastor is away on holidays, if an emergency arises, please contact an elder. If there is an extreme emergency, call pastor, and he will do what he can to help.