

**Australian Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,**  
**ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, TRINITY MARBURG, TRINITY OAKEY**  
26 February 2023 - First Sunday in Lent

**HYMNS:** 78 195 756 384

**INTROIT:** Psalm 32:1-7

Blessed is the person whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is covered!

Blessed is the person whose iniquity the LORD does not count against him, and in whose spirit is no deceit!

When I kept silent, my bones became brittle because of my groaning all day long.

For Your hand lay heavily on me by day and by night. The dry heat of summer overturned my energy.

I acknowledged my sin to You and did not conceal my iniquity. I said, "I shall confess my rebellious acts to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

For this reason let every devout person pray to You in a time when You may be found. Surely, when great floodwaters come they will not reach him.

You are a hiding place for me. You will protect me from trouble. You will surround me with shouting over deliverance

**COLLECT:** O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church, that, following our Saviour, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; 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 3:1-21 Adam and Eve's fall into sin, and the first promise of the Saviour.

Romans 5:12-17 God's grace has overflowed even more.

Matthew 4:1-11 It is written

*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.***

**Genesis 3:1-21**

<sup>1</sup> **The snake** was more cunning than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He asked the woman, “Has God really said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden!’?”

<sup>2</sup> The woman told the snake: “We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden.

<sup>3</sup> However, God has said about the fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden: ‘You shall not eat from it and shall not touch it, or you will die!’”

<sup>4</sup> **The snake** told the woman, “You will certainly not die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that in the day when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was a delight to look at and that the tree was desirable for making someone wise, she took some of its fruit and ate it. Then she also gave some to her husband, who was with her and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened and they realised that they were naked. Therefore, they sewed fig leaves together and made loin coverings for themselves.

<sup>8</sup> At the time of the day when there was a breeze, the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden and hid from the presence of the LORD God among the trees in the garden. <sup>9</sup> Then the LORD God called to the man and asked him, “Where are you?”

<sup>10</sup> The man said, “I heard Your voice in the garden and was afraid, because I was naked. So, I hid.”

<sup>11</sup> He said, “Who has told you that you are naked? Have you eaten fruit from the tree from which I have commanded you not to eat?”

<sup>12</sup> Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me some fruit from the tree and I ate it.”

<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God asked the woman, “What is this that you have done?”

The woman said, “**The snake deceived me, and I ate.**”

<sup>14</sup> Then the LORD God told the snake: “Because you have done this, you are cursed, more than any domestic animal and any wild animal. You will crawl on your belly and eat dust all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> I shall make you and the woman hostile to each other and shall make your descendants and her Descendant hostile to each other. He will **crush** your head and you will crush His heel.”

<sup>16</sup> He told the woman: “I shall greatly increase your painful labour and your pregnancy. In pain you will give birth to children. You will yearn for your husband and he will rule over you.”

<sup>17</sup> Then to the man He said: “Because you have listened to what your wife has said and have eaten from the tree about which I had commanded you, ‘You shall not eat from it!’ the ground is **cursed** because of you. You will eat from it through painful toil all the days of your life. <sup>18</sup> It will cause both **thorns and thistles** to **grow** for you and you will eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> You will eat bread in the sweat of your brow until you return

to the ground. For you were taken from it. For you are dust and you will return to dust.”

<sup>20</sup> The man named his wife “Eve,” because she was the mother of every living person.

<sup>21</sup> Then the LORD God made tunics from skins for the man and his wife and clothed them.

### Romans 5:12-19

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, so death also spread to all people, since all have sinned. <sup>13</sup> For until the Law sin was in the world. However, sin is not charged against anyone’s account when there is no Law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death ruled from Adam to Moses, also over those who had not sinned in the same way as Adam did when he broke the Command (Adam was a type of Him who was to come). <sup>15</sup> However, the free gift is not like the transgression. For, if the many died as the result of the one man’s transgression, much more, God’s grace and the gracious gift of the One Man, Jesus Christ, have overflowed to the many. <sup>16</sup> The gift is also different from what came through the one man who sinned. For the judgment came from one man and resulted in condemnation, but the free gift came after many transgressions and resulted in justification. <sup>17</sup> For if, by the transgression of the one man, death reigned through the one man, much more, those who have received God’s overflowing grace and His gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One Man, Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> Therefore, as through one man’s transgression judgment came to all people, resulting in condemnation, so also, through One Man’s righteous act, the free gift came to all people, resulting in justification, which brings life. <sup>19</sup> For as, through the disobedience of the one man, the many became sinners, so also through the obedience of the One Man, the many will become righteous.

### Matthew 4:1-11

<sup>1</sup> Then the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil. <sup>2</sup> He did not eat anything for forty days and forty nights and at the end of that time He was hungry.

<sup>3</sup> The Tempter came to Him and said, “If You are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread!”

<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, “Scripture has said: **‘A person does not live by bread alone but by every Word that comes out through the mouth of God.’**”

<sup>5</sup> Then the Devil took Him into the Holy City and had Him stand on the ledge of the Temple. <sup>6</sup> He told Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down! For Scripture has said: **‘He will command His angels concerning you. They will carry you in their hands that you may not strike your foot against a stone.’**”

<sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, “Again, Scripture has said, **‘You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test!’**”

<sup>8</sup> Again, the Devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup> The Devil told Him, “I shall give You all this if You fall and worship me.”

<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus answered him: “Go away, Satan! For Scripture has said: **‘You shall worship the Lord, your God and shall serve Him alone!’**”

<sup>11</sup> Then the Devil left Him, and angels came and served Him.

## JESUS RESISTED THE DEVIL'S TEMPTATIONS

Sermon for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent, 2023

Matthew 4:1-11

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

The text for our sermon today is the Gospel from before Matthew 4:1-11: **Then the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil.** <sup>2</sup> **He did not eat anything for forty days and forty nights and at the end of that time He was hungry.**

<sup>3</sup> **The Tempter came to Him and said, "If You are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread!"**

<sup>4</sup> **Jesus answered, "Scripture has said: 'A person does not live by bread alone but by every Word that comes out through the mouth of God.'"**

<sup>5</sup> **Then the Devil took Him into the Holy City and had Him stand on the ledge of the Temple.** <sup>6</sup> **He told Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down! For Scripture has said: 'He will command His angels concerning you. They will carry you in their hands that you may not strike your foot against a stone.'"**

<sup>7</sup> **Jesus answered him, "Again, Scripture has said, 'You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test!'"**

<sup>8</sup> **Again, the Devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.** <sup>9</sup> **The Devil told Him, "I shall give You all this if You fall and worship me."**

<sup>10</sup> **Then Jesus answered him: "Go away, Satan! For Scripture has said: 'You shall worship the Lord, your God and shall serve Him alone!'"**

<sup>11</sup> **Then the Devil left Him, and angels came and served Him.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us through Your Truth, Your Word is Truth. Amen.

Dear friends in Christ,

Immediately after His baptism, **"the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil."** Notice that, first of all, *it is the Holy Spirit* who leads Jesus into the wilderness precisely to be tempted by the Devil! Why is this? You see, God is going to have a faithful and obedient Son who does overcome the Devil's temptations. Adam had failed the test, as had Israel, but Jesus will pass with flying colours. So, the Spirit leads Jesus out into the wilderness for that purpose.

**"Into the wilderness."** Adam and Eve were in the Garden when the Devil had tempted them, and they yielded to his temptations. After they had come out of Egypt, the nation of Israel travelled through the wilderness when they failed their test. As a result, they wandered for forty years there, in the wilderness.

So now Jesus will “re-do” that experience and get it right. Forty days will do the job. Matthew writes how Jesus “**did not eat anything for forty days and forty nights and at the end of that time He was hungry.**”

The Devil had tempted Adam and Eve through food. They were tempted to eat the fruit of that one tree from which the LORD God had told them not to eat. Even though the Garden was full of other trees from which they could eat fruit, the Devil tempted them to eat from that one, and it looked so good for food.

The nation of Israel was tempted through food. Remember how there in the wilderness they had grumbled about not having the types of food they had back in Egypt, and then they grumbled about the food that the LORD was supplying them with.

And so now the Devil is going to try to tempt Jesus through the avenue of having a hungry belly. “**If You are the Son of God,**” he says, “**tell these stones to become loaves of bread!**”

Now, as the Son of God, could Jesus have been able to turn stones into bread? Of course. It was easily within His power to do so. Indeed, later in Matthew’s gospel, we find Jesus having no problem turning a few loaves of bread into enough to feed thousands of people.

But in that later incident, in the feeding of the five thousand, that’s a whole different context. There would be nothing wrong with Jesus’ doing so in that situation. But here, in the temptation in the wilderness, it’s a different case. This is where the question of Jesus’ identity as the Son of God comes into play. Notice that the Devil says, “**If You are the Son of God.**”

Here, we must point out something about how the phrase, “**If You are the Son of God,**” is stated. There are a couple of ways to state an “if” clause in the Greek. One way would be to write it to mean, “*Jesus, if You were the Son of God, which You aren’t, You could turn these stones into bread.*” But that’s not what the Devil is saying here. There’s a way to write it with that meaning in the Greek, but this isn’t that. The Devil is not denying the fact that Jesus is the Son of God. No, he concedes that Jesus is indeed the Son of God, which Jesus had just heard being affirmed by the Father at His baptism.

The Devil’s approach is more subtle and goes something like this: “*Jesus, you have just heard the Father call You His Son in whom He is well pleased, but if You are so loved, why is He letting you starve in the wilderness? You deserve better than that. Look, You are the Son of God! Use that! You know You can change these stones into bread. What would be so wrong with that? Food is a good thing. And You need it, don’t You? So go ahead, turn those stones into bread. You’re God’s Son, after all.*”

You see, the Devil is pretty crafty and cunning in his temptations. He doesn’t usually take a head-on approach. He often comes at things from the side, knocking down our barriers little by little. It’s a more subtle approach that the Devil prefers. So here, the

temptation for Jesus is to use His status as God's Son for His own benefit, to satisfy His own desires, rather than to do the will of the Father who had sent Him. **"If You are the Son of God,"** the Devil says. In other words, *"You are the Son of God, but what kind of a Son are You going to be? How are you going to use that status?"* That was the nature of the temptation.

How does the Devil work on us? What things does he whisper in our ears? Obviously, he doesn't usually come right out and say, *"Listen, Christian, renounce your faith, curse God, and come join me in hell for eternity."* No, that would be a little too obvious. Instead, the Devil comes at us with soft and smooth and convincing tones: *"Listen, Christian, you're God's child, aren't you? And God should want the best for His children, shouldn't He? So if there's something you want or want to do, you should be able to get it or do it. Within reason, of course. No big sins. No, just to satisfy your desires, that's all. And look, God is in the grace-and-forgiveness business, isn't He? So do what you want, don't listen to that other voice in your other ear and go for it. Then you can repent later on. God will forgive you. You're God's child, after all."*

Do you see the nature of the Devil's temptations? He is subtle and crafty, and prowls around like a roaring lion.<sup>1</sup> No all-out frontal assaults, but more from the side, making incremental break-downs of barriers. And how often we fall for the Devil's subtle tricks and traps! We are just like our first parents, Adam and Eve. We are just like the children of Israel - unfaithful sons and daughters. Being led down that road, we shall wind up being driven out of the Garden, away from the tree of life, left to die in the wilderness, never to enter the Promised Land.

But thanks be to God! For Jesus has come to rescue us from that death and that judgment. He has come as our divine Champion, taking on the Devil in mortal combat. And Jesus has prevailed. To the Devil's very real temptation of turning the stones into bread, Jesus replies, quoting Scripture, namely Deuteronomy 8:3, **"A person does not live by bread alone but by every Word that comes out through the mouth of God."** And so on down the line, through all the temptations, Jesus will be the one faithful Son who gets it right.

You see, the Devil is trying to divert and distract Jesus from carrying out the mission He was sent to do, which is to go to the cross for our salvation. If the Devil can divert Jesus right at the outset of His ministry, so much the better. That's what this is about: to see what kind of a Son Jesus will be. Will He be faithful and obedient, or will He be a Son who will use His power for His own benefit instead of doing the will of His Father?

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Peter 5:8

Thank God, Jesus passed the test, and would continue on that faithful course *all the way to the cross*. For instance, when Peter couldn't understand the Passion prediction Jesus gave about going to Jerusalem to suffer and die, he told Jesus, "*May God in His mercy spare You this, Lord! This will certainly not happen to You.*" But Jesus told him, "*Get behind me, Satan!*"<sup>2</sup> - echoing what Jesus told the Devil, Satan himself here in our text. And even when Jesus was hanging on the cross, and people were taunting Him with words just like the Devil's here - "*If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross!*" (Matt. 27:40), Jesus would not succumb to that temptation, either. The cross was what Jesus was sent to do, and He would not be diverted. Instead, He was determined. Jesus is the faithful Son of God, who does His Father's will. Jesus indeed is the very Son of God, by whose shed blood our sins are forgiven, so that now we shall not die forever, but rather will live.

The Devil was very crafty with his "**If You are the Son of God**" approach. Yes, Devil, Jesus is the Son of God. He's got a job to do: to be the Saviour of us here today and the people of the world, and He will not use His status as Son in a way that will take Him away from His mission. Jesus knows His identity. He is secure in it, and you, Devil, will not be able to shake Him from it.

And so, as dearly loved children of God, we rejoice that we have such a Saviour. When we feel temptations, we pray, "*lead us not into temptation,*" asking God to give us the power and strength to resist the Devil when he whispers in our ears, because while we continue to live in the flesh and have the Devil around us, no one can escape his temptations and lures. We remember who we are - children of God. We take refuge in Christ, realising who we are in Him. Our identities have been wrapped up in Him. For Christ's sake, we have been forgiven all our sins and have life in His name. While we must endure temptations - indeed, be engulfed in them - since we are God's children, and because Jesus has resisted all temptations of the Devil on our behalf, we receive the benefit, namely, our salvation - a salvation that has been won by Jesus when He died on the cross for our sins and rose three days later for our justification. "**Go away, Satan! For Scripture has said: 'You shall worship the Lord, your God and shall serve Him alone!'**" May it be so. Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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<sup>2</sup> Matthew 16:22-23

## PRAYER FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Almighty God, heavenly Father, since every good gift comes from You, we approach You in prayer in the name of Your Son Jesus Christ our Saviour. Though we are ashamed because we are unworthy, we come with faith and confidence in Your fatherly love and mercy.

We thank You that You have given us Jesus Christ as our high priest. He knows our weaknesses, for He bore them. He knows our temptations, for He endured them, and learnt obedience by what He suffered. Grant that we may show our loyalty to You by absolute loyalty to all Your words, even when they seem baffling.

Lamb of God, slain for the sins of the world, cleanse us from our sins, and teach us obedience. Take away from us all desire to follow any will but Yours. Fill us with faith and love, that we may gladly believe and follow Your Word. Give us such trust in our heavenly Father's protection that we always rejoice as we walk in His ways.

Holy Spirit of God, when we are led into the wilderness of testing, deliver us by Your power, and save us from the evil on every hand. Give us Your strength, and by the example of Jesus show us the victorious power of God's Word.

Strengthen and bless Your Church. We praise You for the privilege of being co-workers with You to save people. Help us not to waste the grace of God that we ourselves have already received. Open the door of opportunity for us. Fill us with a faith that claims Your grace each day and then moves us to proclaim it to others.

Because Your Gospel can make many people rich, give us joy in our witnessing, no matter what sacrifices we suffer.

Uphold our homes by the Gospel. Empower all parents to be true followers of Jesus, the light of the world, so that their example of faith and obedience may help their children also to know and follow Jesus.

Pour out Your Spirit on our country, O Lord, so that in their life and work all citizens may seek to show forth Your praise, power, and glory.

Be with all those who suffer, and let them know Your concern and compassion. Be with those who grieve, and comfort them with Your promises. Be with those whose earthly pilgrimage is coming to an end, and fill them with the sure hope of eternal life in Christ.

O Father, watch over all Your people, and bring us safely through this world to the kingdom that You have prepared for all who love You. We pray all these things in the name of Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Article: Jesus' Temptation and our Own**

Even Jesus wasn't free from temptation, temptation being that which would lead to sin against God and away from God if given into. Immediately following His baptism by John the Baptist, as according to Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness for forty days where He was tempted by the Devil. The Devil is the one who was thrown out of heaven because he wanted to be like God (Revelation 12:7-9). He is the one who as a serpent in the Garden of Eden had tempted Eve, the woman formed from the rib of the first man Adam, to eat of the forbidden fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:21-23; 3:1-6). He is the one who had attacked Job in the Old Testament book with the same name, that same Job who suffered greatly and suffered much at the hands of the accuser, but who would not give-in to curse God and die (Job 2:9-10).

The Devil is a real being, contrary to the results of many a poll in our day that say otherwise. When it comes to matters of truth, numbers and the majority don't run the show. God's Word does. Though we do not see the Devil, he tries not only to hurt, harm, and tempt us to sin but also to lead us to doubt and disbelieve God's promises. He tempts us not to trust Jesus for help and hope and find in Him rest for our weary souls, but rather that we despair and find no comfort whatsoever, or that we find comfort in that which is not the true and everlasting comfort of God's Word (Matthew 11:28-29).

This is where the Devil would lead us, not to believe and trust in God's Son, our Saviour, but belief and trust in another that is not the true God. Thus would he lead us to hell, not to heaven. For this reason, the Devil has his eyes not only on us, but during those 40 days that Jesus was in the wilderness, he had his eyes fixed on Jesus, not in belief, but to bring about Christ's downfall. Had he succeeded, there would be no Saviour, and we would undoubtedly be lost eternally.

That Jesus suffered temptation and yet was without sin (Hebrews 4:15) is a sure testament that temptation, in and of itself, cannot harm us. Here, Martin Luther's words are helpful, for they rightly distinguish between 'being tempted' and 'giving in' to temptation. There is a distinction, as is recorded in *Luther's Large Catechism*: *"To feel temptation, therefore, is quite different from consenting and yielding to it. We must all feel it, though not all to the same degree; some have more frequent and severe temptations than others. Youths, for example, are tempted chiefly by the flesh; older people are tempted by the world. Others, who are concerned with spiritual matters (that is, strong Christians) are tempted by the Devil. But we cannot be harmed by the mere feeling of temptation as long as it is contrary to our will and we would prefer to be rid of it. If we did not feel it, it could not be called a temptation.*

*But to consent to it is to give it free rein and neither resist it nor pray for help against it.”*

These words hold more than a little comfort for all who are troubled by temptation. It is a sure sign that one is on the right path if one wants to be rid of temptations all together and sees them for what they are. But resisting them by our strength we cannot do, as even by experience we know. As soon as we believe ourselves strong enough to overcome, we find that we fall. By our own strength, we cannot resist. To the Lord, we must cling. He gives His strength that we keep at it, not losing heart, but trusting in Him for grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16).

Here, our Lord does not forsake, for *“no temptation has overtaken you except what is common to all human beings. However, God is faithful. He will not allow you to be tested beyond what you can bear”* (1 Corinthians 10:13). *“The Lord is faithful, and will strengthen you and protect you from the Evil One”* (2 Thessalonians 3:3).

It is not the faithlessness of God that leads into temptation, but each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed (James 1:14). Therefore, we certainly struggle with our own desires which are contrary to God’s Word and will. But here we are not left to ourselves. In Christ we are new creations. The Old has passed and the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17). Our sinful flesh has been drowned in the waters of Holy Baptism. No longer are we our own. We belong to another, even to the Lord who has redeemed us from our sin and saves us from eternal death. Belonging to Him, we wish not to remain as we once were according to the flesh, but to change, living Godly and upright lives according to God’s Word unto Him who calls us to Himself.

And to us does God give strength and preserve us in the faith that we continue in Him. According to His Holy Word He calls us from despair and doubt, and from self-righteousness and pride. He offers His forgiveness and His body and blood that we believe and eat and drink and so be confident of His grace and mercy, for we know ourselves to still be sinners. He gives His Spirit that we live unto Him who is our Head, deny ourselves, and follow Him. And these we do, though feebly on our part on account of our sin that still clings to us. But God in Christ shows us our Saviour and Lord, even our salvation, our anchor and sure foundation.

Therefore, we flee to Christ for refuge. Temptations surely do and will come, even as our Lord says, *“The one who thinks that he is standing firm should beware that he does not fall”* (1 Corinthians 10:12). Of ourselves and by ourselves, we shall fall. But pray to the Lord for help, even as we pray in the Lord’s prayer, *“Lead us not into temptation”* and *“Deliver us from evil.”* And so our Lord does. He delivers us from sin, death, and the power of the Devil through His own death on Good Friday.

**Children's Message:**

When I was a child, I loved to play outside: riding my bike, racing up and down the track! Do you like to do that? There are a lot of fun things that you discover outside all throughout the year, and it doesn't matter whether it is hot and dry outside, or cold and wet.

When I would ride my bike, sometimes I'd ride a bit too fast or clumsy, and fall off. I would hit the dirt! If it was hot and dry, there would be a cloud of dust. If I fell off in the wet, I'd get covered with mud. Think about dirt. When it's dusty, you can draw pictures in the dust, but when it's wet, it makes good mud pies! But no matter whether dry or wet, I always made a mess with dirt.

Dust is messy. And God says to Adam that he is dust. When God made Adam, He made him out of the dust.

Can you do that? Do you think I could make a person out of the dust? Of course not. That's because we're not God. God made Adam out of the dust; that was incredible and wonderful. God even made Adam perfect. But Adam did not remain perfect. He sinned, so God told him "*You were taken from dust. For you are dust and you will return to dust.*" That means Adam would die because of his sin. All of us, every human being, you, me, everybody, has come from Adam. Just like him, we sin. So just like him, we shall die.

Just like I can't take messy dust and make a person out of it, I can't make a dead person come back to life. Who do you think could take the dust, take Adam, take you and me, and bring life? Of course, God can. And in Jesus, He does. Jesus took the place of Adam, who sinned, and He takes our place since we sin. But Jesus never sins, so when He dies, it's not for His sin, but for ours. And you know what happened after Jesus died for us! He rose from the dead. He lives forever so that He brings us life forever.

Have fun playing in the dirt! And when you do, remember what Jesus has done for you so that you have life!



*Thank You Jesus for creating me. Thank You for dying on the cross and rising again for me, so I can be with You forever. Amen.*

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

<b>1 March Mid-week LENTEN SERVICE</b>	<b>5 March, Sunday 2 Lent</b>	<b>8 March Mid-week LENTEN SERVICE</b>
7.30pm TMBA Vespers	8.30am OAK HC 9.00am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.15am GRN HC 9.00am MARBURG LR	7.30pm GRN Vespers
<b>Wednesday, 1 March</b>		
HYMNS: 73 (tune 330) 298 603 48 v.3		
<b>Sunday, 5 March</b>		
READINGS: Genesis 12:1-9;                      Romans 4:1-8, 13-17;                      John 3:1-17		
HYMNS: 456 385 413 (69 840) 279		
<b>Wednesday, 8 March</b>		
HYMNS: 72 292 250 48 v.3		

Wednesday, 1 March, 10.00am. Women's Guild at Bethlehem Toowoomba.  
*Opening Devotion:* Kylie. Choose a Bible verse from Leviticus 5-8. *Item of Interest:* A Bookmark.

Sunday, 12 March, 1.30pm. Seminary Committee meeting at Bethlehem Toowoomba.

Children please take an Easter colouring book home today.

AGM Dates:

Marburg – Today after service.

Lowood – Sunday, 19 March, after service.

Parish - Sunday, 30 April, after the AELC Service to be held at Oakey.

Mid-week Lenten Bulletins and Sermons will be available on the website. Printed copies will also be available the following Sunday for those who cannot attend.