

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

6 August The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

HYMNS: 526 560 268 466

INTROIT: Psalm 136:1-9 & 23-26

Give thanks to the LORD! For He is good. For His mercy endures for ever.

Give thanks to the God of gods! For His mercy endures for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for His mercy endures for ever; to Him who alone does miraculous things, for His mercy endures for ever; to Him who by understanding made the heavens, for His mercy endures for ever; to Him who spread out the earth on the waters, for His mercy endures for ever; the sun to rule over the day, for His mercy endures for ever; the moon and stars to rule over the night, for His mercy endures for ever;

who remembered us when we were humiliated, for His mercy endures for ever; who dragged us away from our enemies, for His mercy endures for ever; who gives food to every creature. For His mercy endures for ever.

Give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy endures for ever.

COLLECT: Heavenly Father, although we do not deserve Your goodness, still You provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your gifts, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Welcome to all worshipping with us!

Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 0407583922.

Email him at paziebell@gmail.com or to the church office at ddaelc@gmail.com.

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

READINGS: Isaiah 55:1-5 An invitation to abundant life.

Romans 9:1-13 God will keep His promise to believers.

Matthew 14:13-21 Jesus' feeding of the five thousand.

Isaiah 55:1-5

¹ “**Come! Everyone who is thirsty, come to the water!** You who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come! Buy wine and milk **without money** and without cost! ² Why do you spend money for what is not bread and your labour for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me! Eat what is good and enjoy rich food! ³ Turn your ears toward Me and come to Me! Listen, that your souls may stay alive! **I shall establish an eternal Covenant** with you, **the long-lasting mercies shown to David.** ⁴ Look! I have given Him as a Witness to the nations, a Leader and a Commander of the nations.”

⁵ Look! You will summon a nation that you do not know, and a nation that has not known you will run to you, because of the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel. For He has honoured you.

Romans 9:1-5 (6-13)

¹ I am telling the truth in Christ. I am not lying, as my conscience bears witness to me by the Holy Spirit, ² that I have great sorrow and unceasing pain in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those who are my own flesh and blood. ⁴ They are Israelites. To them belong the adoption as sons, the glory, the Covenants, the receiving of the Law, the worship and the promises. ⁵ To them belong the fathers, and from them, according to His human nature, the Christ came, who is God over everything, blessed for ever! Amen.

⁶ This does not mean that the Word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel, ⁷ and not all who are the offspring of Abraham are for that reason his children. Rather, “**Isaac’s children will be called your offspring.**” ⁸ This means that the children of God are not those who are children by natural birth. Rather, the children of the promise are reckoned as Abraham’s offspring. ⁹ For this is how the promise was worded: “**I shall come at this appointed time, and Sarah will have a son.**” ¹⁰ Not only this, but, Rebecca also conceived by one man, our father Isaac. ¹¹ For the children had not yet been born and had not done anything good or bad, that God’s purpose according to election might remain, ¹² which does not depend on works but on Him who calls, and yet she was told: “**The elder one will serve the younger one.**” ¹³ It is as Scripture has said, “**I have loved Jacob but have hated Esau.**”

Matthew 14:13-21

¹³ When Jesus heard what had happened, He withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place to be alone. The crowds heard about it and followed Him on foot from the cities. ¹⁴ When Jesus came out of the boat, He saw a large crowd. His heart was filled with pity for them, and He healed their sick. ¹⁵ In the evening His disciples came to Him and said, “This is a deserted place, and it is already late. Send the crowds away, that they may go into the villages to buy some food for themselves!”

¹⁶ Jesus answered them, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat!”

¹⁷ They told Him, “We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish.”

¹⁸ He said, “Bring them here to Me!”

¹⁹ He ordered the people to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, said a blessing and broke the loaves. He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ All of them had enough to eat. They took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ The number of men who had eaten was about five thousand, not counting the women and children.

EAT, DRINK, LISTEN – AND BE SATISFIED
Sermon for the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 2023
Isaiah 55:1-5

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 our First Reading from before, Isaiah 55:1-5: **“Come! Everyone who is thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come! Buy wine and milk without money and without cost! ² Why do you spend money for what is not bread and your labour for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me! Eat what is good and enjoy rich food! ³ Turn your ears toward Me and come to Me! Listen, that your souls may stay alive! I shall establish an eternal Covenant with you, the long-lasting mercies shown to David. ⁴ Look! I have given Him as a Witness to the nations, a Leader and a Commander of the nations.”**

⁵ Look! You will summon a nation that you do not know, and a nation that has not known you will run to you, because of the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel. For He has honoured you.

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

Dear friends in Christ,

One of the most wonderful invitations from the Word of God is found in Matthew 11:28. There, Jesus says, *“Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I shall give you rest.”* It’s comforting to know we have a Saviour who is always ready to listen and help. However, while it is true that life is full of hard loads for us to carry, what Jesus really has in mind here are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. He speaks these words of comfort *to those who acknowledge their sinfulness and realise that it is too heavy for them to bear, that this load will drag them down to hell if they must bear it by themselves*. These are the ones to whom Jesus promises rest, and this rest is His free gift.

Today, through the prophet Isaiah, another wonderful invitation in like manner is given. It is an invitation to acquire the LORD’s gracious blessings. Today, He extends an invitation to each of us, saying, *“Come and eat!” “Come and drink!” “Come and be satisfied!”*

This is the message God is speaking to us today through His prophet Isaiah. Listen again to His words: **“Come! Everyone who is thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come! Buy wine and milk without money and without cost! ² Why do you spend money for what is not bread and your labour for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me! Eat what is good and enjoy rich food!”**

In these verses, we see several things about the Lord’s invitation and who are the ones to whom the Lord issues this invitation. We see how much it costs to come and buy the rich food and thirst-quenching drink the Lord offers us, and we see the folly of going after those things that do not satisfy.

First, who are the ones to whom the Lord is extending this invitation? Isaiah tells us: **“Everyone who is thirsty”** and **“You who have no money.”** Is that you? Are you thirsty? Do you realise your spiritual poverty? If so, ***then this invitation is for you***. If not, then you need to rethink your situation.

So, are you thirsty? In the New Testament, Jesus says, *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied”* (Matthew 5:6).

To the sinful woman at the well, He says, “*Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never be thirsty forever*” (John 4:14). And at the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus says, “*If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink*” (John 7:37). You see, Jesus is the fulfilment of Isaiah’s prophecy. When Isaiah says, “**Come! Everyone who is thirsty, come to the water!**” he’s looking ahead to Jesus, who would give the waters that will satisfy our thirst.

So, are you thirsty? Do you sense and feel your spiritual thirst? Do you realise something’s wrong, something’s wrong with you? That you are a sinner? Have you broken God’s good commandments and are living contrary to His will? That you haven’t done what you know God wants you to do? That you have done things you know you shouldn’t do? That’s sin, and it should make you thirsty, spiritually thirsty for something, anything, that will take away your guilt and shame. Do you sense and feel your lack of inner righteousness? That you aren’t good enough to stand before almighty God on Judgment Day? Do you feel these things? Do you know it and own it? If so, *that’s good* because now you are ready to hear and respond to the invitation He extends to you.

“**Come! Everyone who is thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come! Buy wine and milk without money and without cost!**” How much does buying the food and drink the Lord here offers cost? Remember, this is the greatest food and drink you could imagine: *the forgiveness of your sins and the hope of everlasting life*. It doesn’t get any better than that. So how much does this grand banquet cost? **Absolutely nothing**. No cost at all. No, wait. *It does come at a cost*, except you’re not paying it. But for you, it’s free. There is no charge at all.

We’ve all heard the saying, “*There’s no such thing as a free lunch.*” This means that while it may sound like it’s free, in reality, it isn’t. There are some strings attached. You may not be paying directly for that supposedly free lunch, but somewhere down the line, you are. In this world, in this life, there is no such thing as a free lunch.

But when it comes to the food and drink that God offers, it is free, truly free. This is a gracious invitation, all by grace, a free gift. “*The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*” (Romans 6:23). “*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God*” (Ephesians 2:8). And in Revelation 22:17 it says, “*Let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life*

without price.” This is what Isaiah foresees when he says, **“Come! Buy wine and milk without money and without cost!”**

You see, we couldn’t buy this food and drink even if we tried. We cannot pile up enough good works to offset our sins and purchase the priceless gift God gives us. We don’t have that kind of currency. But Jesus does. He has the righteousness that has an infinite cash value. Enough to go around, more than enough to cover the debts of every sinner everywhere.

And when we say that God’s great feast does come at a cost, but we are not paying for it, we are talking about Jesus. He’s the One who pays for our redemption, our rescue from sin and death. Christ has paid that incalculable cost on the cross. There He, the sinless Son of God, paid the price that sets us sinners free. How did He do it? He has *“redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.”* Dear friends, no greater price could be paid than that, and this is how the Lord can offer His gifts for free: ***Because they’ve already been paid for.***

So why do people go after other things that cannot satisfy as the Lord’s gifts can? It doesn’t make any sense, but that’s what people do. They look everywhere for things they think will satisfy their hunger and thirst. But nothing else can do the job. **“Why do you spend money for what is not bread and your labour for what does not satisfy?”** Why indeed? All these other avenues that people go down are dead ends. They will end in death. They may give momentary pleasure, but they will end in death.

People are always searching for things that will make them happy. And when those things become more important than God or replace the one true God, *they become an idol.*

Some people look to other false gods, gods made by men. There is Allah, the false god of the Muslims. The false god of the Mormons or the Jehovah’s Witnesses is not the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as revealed in the Scriptures. These false gods cannot save. They cannot help. They do not exist.

Some people run after sinful pleasure to be their ultimate good. They seek their happiness in illicit sex, adultery or homosexuality, drunkenness or drugs, greed or gluttony or wrongful gain - anything to appease their appetites and give them a high.

Some look to politics, whether left or right, to provide the answer to man's problems. Some look to nature and the environment and worship the creation rather than the Creator. All these wrong turns. None of these answers will satisfy in the end.

But even good things can become an idol. Prosperity, pleasure, health, wealth, recreation, romance, a nice home, family, fun times. Even these good things, these good gifts from God, cannot ultimately satisfy. So don't let them become an end in themselves. These things cannot forgive your sins. These things cannot rescue you from the grave or hell. Instead, "*seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you*" (Matthew 6:33).

"Why do you spend money for what is not bread and your labour for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me! Eat what is good and enjoy rich food!" Dear friends, hear and heed the Lord's gracious invitation, and come and eat and drink. This is rich food indeed! Come regularly to receive Christ's body and blood in His Supper. In that Supper, the bread is His body, given for you. The cup is His blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. And where sins are forgiven, there is also life and salvation.

Dear friends, today the Lord says to you: **"Turn your ears toward Me and come to Me! Listen, that your souls may stay alive!"** Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters. Come, you who have no money; come, buy and eat without money and price. Come and eat what is good; delight yourself in rich food. Yes, come and be satisfied! Amen.

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

PRAYER FOR THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Almighty and everlasting God, since nothing is hidden before You, and since all hearts are laid bare before You, give us true humility, reverence, and repentance as we now come before Your throne of grace. Do not remember our many sins, but only Your kindness and constant love in Jesus Christ our Lord. We praise You for fulfilling Your eternal election of grace by sending Your Son Jesus Christ to shed His blood, the blood of the covenant, as our Saviour from sin. We praise You for giving us Your Holy Spirit to renew and help us day by day, to produce the results of Your grace.

Rule us by Your Holy Spirit that we may not give way to the evils of idolatry, sexual impurity, unbelief, and other great and shameful sins. Give us a living faith, which will enable us to stand firm at all times, and keep us from grumbling, doubt, or despair. Strengthen us whenever we are tempted, so that we may successfully resist Satan's power.

Help us all to believe Your Word and to heed its warnings, so that we may always do what is right, and live in the faith that leads to eternal life. Increase our hope of seeing Your glory.

We thank You for Your countless blessings in our lives. Help us to use them faithfully and responsibly as good stewards of Your varied gifts, as people who are grateful for all Your love.

Bless Your Church, O Father, so that Your name may be hallowed and Your kingdom may come. Continue to lead Your people to Jesus Christ their rock, and refresh them with the water of life. Equip Your people to proclaim Your truth with wisdom, love, and boldness, so that many more from all nations may call on Your name and be saved.

Convince the people in our country that righteousness makes a nation great, and that sin brings disgrace. Keep its people in Your care, so that honesty, uprightness, truth, and high moral principles may flourish, and all lawlessness, evil, and defiance of authority may be put down. We ask Your special blessing on all who govern, that they may have wisdom to rule according to Your direction, and not to the popular personal opinions of a few.

Guard and protect our homes. Unite parents in mutual love and godliness. Enable them to rule their children well and bring them up in truth and righteousness.

We pray for those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit, for all who are in any danger; for all who are experiencing worry, doubts, disappointments, or defeat. Help them in their troubles, and save them, for Your mercy's sake.

Heavenly Father, You did not even hold back Your Son, but gave Him up for us all; with Him freely give us all things and hear our prayers. And to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be honour and praise for ever and ever. Amen.

Article: Fears, Tears, and Years

A child wakes in his cot, alone in the nursery. He is hungry and afraid. He does not know where his next meal will come from. He cries. His mother is well within earshot, attending to housework or resting briefly. But he does not know that. For all he knows, his mother is no longer alive or no longer exists at all. He is afraid. His mother quickly comes to comfort, tend, feed, and nourish him. He need not have been afraid.

A baby must learn that people and things do not cease to exist just because they are outside his field of vision. We must learn to remember that God still exists, even though we cannot see Him, even when we cannot perceive how He is helping, blessing, and caring for us. We need that awareness when we are afraid, whenever we cry out in the darkness of this world.

A child weeps because his request has been denied or his pleasure delayed. The most minor of losses causes him to despair of ever again experiencing peace, contentment, and joy. He cannot look beyond his most immediate needs or wants. That takes years to learn.

A youngster must learn to accept disappointment. He must bow to the superior wisdom of his parents. He must trust that it is for his own good when they deny him something. They know it would be bad for him or not as good as what they are preparing. We need to learn the same things. As much wiser as human parents are than their children, our heavenly Father is infinitely wiser yet. If He says no, it is because He plans to say yes at a better time, because He is preparing something good for us instead of something terrible we want, or because He is preparing something better for us than even something good.

A child waits so impatiently. Only a few minutes into an hour-long trip, he asks, "Are we there yet?" So little time has passed in his life compared to the years of an adult that he cannot fathom that an hour will pass quickly enough. When he is told he must wait, an hour seems an eternity. The few days or weeks until a birthday or Christmas seem forever and then some.

A child must learn that time does pass. And with it passes away the things that hurt and harm and pain us in this life. Eagerly anticipated joys do finally come. But then, if they are earthly joys, they pass away, too. Waiting is hard. Waiting patiently is impossible without hope assured and reassured. But the

hope of eternal life for Jesus' sake is the most certain of all hopes. It will not be disappointed because Jesus' life and death have earned us the forgiveness of sins, eternal life and all the blessings of salvation. Those joys last forever.

A parent tells a child to wait: "It's only an hour." God tells us to wait: "It's only a lifetime." The few short years we spend on earth are nothing compared to eternity. When made to wait, a child's petty, petulant pouting is very much like our throwing a thousand whys before God while we wait for His help in our earthly needs and for the bliss of eternal life.

Someone once asked me: "What's the hook?" At first, I did not understand what he was asking. Then I realised he was asking for something to hold on to. He wanted to know what made sense of our problems on this earth and how they seemed to contradict faith in God. The "hook" is Jesus. The Son of God became Man not to abolish the sorrow of this world in this world but rather to share that sorrow with us, for us, and, most importantly, in our place. God and Man in One, He lived our life and died our death. The life we should have lived, He lived. The death we should have died, He died. All the guilt of our sins and God's anger against our sins.

All the guilt of our sin and God's anger against our sin, He took upon Himself and slew it by His death. He earned for us the complete forgiveness of all our sins. He won for us the grace of God, peace with God, joy in God, and the hope of everlasting life before God's smiling face.

Because of all Jesus did and suffered for us, through the faith, hope, and trust in God worked in us by the message of Jesus, the Gospel; our fears, our tears, and our years lose their sting. They cannot deprive us of comfort, assurance, peace, and joy in the secure knowledge of eternal salvation for Jesus' sake - and of God's help along the way in ways we cannot now fully comprehend.

Looking back from the eternal maturity of glory, we shall realise how silly and childish we were in this life. But we will not regret that we were like children in one way - in the comfort we were granted by our Father's hand holding ours, our Father's arm holding us - in Christ, through His Word.

Children's Message:

In a family, who's the boss? Of course, your parents are! Remember the Fourth Commandment? "Honour your father and your mother." But if your dad or mum has to go out for a little bit, who is in charge then? Maybe they get a babysitter for you. Of course, that babysitter is older than you are, and you must listen to what they tell you.

What about if you are part of a family with brothers and sisters? If dad or mum has to go out, who do they usually put in charge? The oldest brother or sister (if they are old enough 😊). You see, it's usually the oldest who is put in charge - the one who was born first.

In the Bible, Abraham had two sons, Ishmael and Isaac. Ishmael was the older and should have been Abraham's heir, but God chose Isaac to be the one. Isaac and his wife, Rebecca, had twin sons, Jacob and Esau. Esau was born first, then Jacob. Esau expected to be blessed as the firstborn son, but Jacob was instead. God chose Jacob over Esau. He even chose Jacob before the twins were born! Before they had even done anything good or bad. God wanted to show us that when He chooses us, He doesn't follow any rules about who's supposed to be in charge. And He doesn't choose us because we are good or smart or pretty or handsome. He chooses us by grace out of His kindness that we don't deserve.



God chose you the same way. If He chose by rules, and His commandments, none of us would be chosen because all of us sin and break His rules. Instead, He chose you for no other reason than Jesus died on the cross and rose for you. God baptised you as His child before you could even decide that was a good idea. He chose you in His chosen Son, your older Brother, Jesus. That's what He teaches us through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob - salvation is a gift, not a right. It's something God gives and we receive, not something we earn or deserve. *Thank You, Father, for sending Your only Son Jesus to be our Saviour. Help us to remember that You first chose us, and through Holy Baptism have been made Your children! Amen.*

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

13 August 11 Pentecost	20 August 12 Pentecost	27 August 13 Pentecost
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 MARBURG LR	8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA LR 9.30am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD HC
Sunday, 13 August		
READINGS: Job 38:4-18; Romans 10:5-17; Matthew 14:22-33		
HYMNS: 524 420 310 (148 282) 301		
Sunday, 20 August		
READINGS: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32; Matthew 15:21-28		
HYMNS: 422 401 395 (839 74) 219		

Tuesday, 8 August, 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Oakey. Opening devotion: Grant.

Sunday, August 13, 1.30pm. Seminary Committee meeting at Bethlehem Toowoomba.

Please take home with you today a copy of the Parish Newsletter.

August Bible Studies:

Lowood/Marburg: Thursday, 17th, 10.00am at Lowood.

Greenwood: Thursday, 17th, 7.30pm.

Toowoomba: Sunday, 20th, 8.00am.

Oakey/Aubigny, Friday, 25th, 7.30pm at Oakey.