

Australian Evangelical Lutheran Church
BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,
ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, TRINITY MARBURG, TRINITY OAKY
26 November Last Sunday of the Church Year

HYMNS: 169 152 184 297

INTROIT: Psalm 95:1-7a

Come! Let us shout joyfully to the LORD! Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation!
Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving! Let us shout joyfully to Him with songs!
For the LORD is the great God and the great King above all gods.

In His hand are the unexplored depths of the earth, and the peaks of the mountains belong to Him.

The sea is His, and He has made it, and His hands have formed the dry land.

Come, let us worship and bow down! Let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.

COLLECT: Forgive Your people their sin, O heavenly Father, that we may be delivered by Your abundant goodness from the consequences we have deserved; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and 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 ddaalc@gmail.com.

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

READINGS: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 God, the true Shepherd.

1 Corinthians 15:20-28 In Christ all shall be made alive.

Matthew 25:31-46 All nations will be gathered before Him.

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

¹¹ For this is what the Lord GOD has said: "Look! I Myself shall search for My sheep and look after them. ¹² As a shepherd cares for his flock when he is among his scattered sheep, so I shall look after My sheep. I shall rescue them from all the places where they have been scattered on a cloudy and very gloomy day. ¹³ I shall bring them out from the peoples, gather them from the countries and bring them to their own land. I shall be a shepherd to them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the inhabited places of the land. ¹⁴ I shall look after them in good pasture, and their grazing-land will be on the mountain-heights of Israel. There they will lie down in good grazing-land and graze in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I Myself shall shepherd My sheep and I Myself shall let them lie down," declares the Lord GOD.

¹⁶ "I shall search for the lost ones, bring back those that have been scattered, bandage the injured ones and strengthen the sick ones. I shall destroy the ones that are fat and the strong. I shall shepherd them with justice." ...

²⁰ Therefore, this is what the Lord GOD has said to them: "Look! I, yes, I Myself, shall judge between a fat sheep and a lean sheep. ²¹ Because you shove with your sides and shoulders and butt all the weak animals away with your horns until you have scattered them to the outside, ²² I shall save My flock, that they may not be something to plunder any longer. I shall judge between one sheep and another.

²³ “I shall appoint one Shepherd over them, My Servant David, and He will shepherd them. He will take care of them and He Himself will be their Shepherd. ²⁴ I Myself, the LORD, shall be their God, and My Servant David will be the Prince among them. I Myself, the LORD, have spoken.”

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

²⁰ However, now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a man. ²² For, as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ However, each one in his own turn: Christ is the first-fruits. After that, when He comes, those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then the end will come, when He hands over the kingdom to God, the Father, after He has put an end to all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign until God has put all His enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For “He has put all things under His feet.” However, when He says, “All things have been put under Him,” plainly this does not include the One who has put everything under Christ. ²⁸ However, when all things have been put under Him, then the Son Himself will also be put under the One who has put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

Matthew 25:31-46

³¹ “When the Son of Man **comes** in His glory, and **all the angels with Him**, He will sit on His glorious throne. ³² All nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them from one another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will have the sheep stand at His right but the goats at His left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those at His right, ‘Come, you whom My Father has blessed! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the time when the world was created! ³⁵ For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave Me a drink. I was a stranger, and you took Me into your homes, ³⁶ naked, and you gave Me something to wear, sick, and you looked after Me, in prison, and you visited Me.’

³⁷ “Then the righteous ones will ask Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You or thirsty and give You a drink? ³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and take You into our homes or naked and give You something to wear? ³⁹ When did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?’

⁴⁰ “Then the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I tell you, anything you have done for one of My brothers here, even the least important of them, you have done for Me.’

⁴¹ “Then He will say to those at His left, ‘Go away from Me, cursed ones, into the everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels! ⁴² For I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat, thirsty, and you did not give Me a drink, ⁴³ a stranger, and you did not take Me into your homes, naked, and you did not give Me anything to wear, sick and in prison, and you did not look after Me.’

⁴⁴ “Then they also will ask, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not help You?’

⁴⁵ “Then He will answer them, ‘Truly, I tell you, anything you have not done for one of these, even the least important of them, you have not done for Me.’

⁴⁶ “Then **these** will go away **to everlasting** punishment, but the righteous ones **to everlasting life**.”

SHEEP AND GOATS

Sermon for the Last Sunday of the Church Year, 2023

Matthew 25:31-46

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

Today’s text for our sermon is our Gospel from before, Matthew 25:31-46: “**When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His glorious throne. ³² All nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them from one another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will have the sheep stand at His right but the goats at His left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those at His**

right, ‘Come, you whom My Father has blessed! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the time when the world was created!’³⁵ For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave Me a drink. I was a stranger, and you took Me into your homes,³⁶ naked, and you gave Me something to wear, sick, and you looked after Me, in prison, and you visited Me.’

³⁷ “Then the righteous ones will ask Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You or thirsty and give You a drink?’³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and take You into our homes or naked and give You something to wear?’³⁹ When did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?’

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⁴¹ “Then He will say to those at His left, ‘Go away from Me, cursed ones, into the everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels!’⁴² For I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat, thirsty, and you did not give Me a drink,⁴³ a stranger, and you did not take Me into your homes, naked, and you did not give Me anything to wear, sick and in prison, and you did not look after Me.’

⁴⁴ “Then they also will ask, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not help You?’

⁴⁵ “Then He will answer them, ‘Truly, I tell you, anything you have not done for one of these, even the least important of them, you have not done for Me.’

⁴⁶ “Then these will go away to everlasting punishment, but the righteous ones to everlasting life.”

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

Dear friends in Christ,

Are you a sheep or a goat? You will be one or the other, you know. When? When Christ comes again. Listen again to our text: “**When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His glorious throne.**³² **All nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them from one another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.**³³ **He will have the sheep stand at His right but the goats at His left.**” You and I shall be there when this happens, either among the sheep or among the goats. Thus, it’s important that we listen today and learn about the sheep and the goats.

First of all, *the undeniable truth* is that there will be this separation of the sheep and the goats. There will be a day of judgment. A lot of people don’t want to hear that. They don’t want to consider the prospect of a final day of reckoning that will include them, but their denial will not change the reality of it. The fact is, Judgment Day is coming. Jesus is coming again - the Son of Man will come in His glory - and He will sit on His throne as the royal Judge of all. We confess that in our creeds. The Apostles, the Nicene, and the Athanasian all state that Christ will come “*to judge the living and the dead.*”

At this judgment of all people, there will be a separation: “**He will have the sheep stand at His right but the goats at His left.**” Notice that there is no middle ground - there is the right, and left, and that’s it. There are sheep and goats, nothing else. Neither are there goats in sheep’s clothing. All the masks come off. The truth comes out. There is no more pretending and play-acting. Sheep are revealed as sheep and goats are revealed as goats. That’s not always so immediately apparent in this life, but it will be then, and it will make a difference whether you are a sheep or a goat. Their destinations will be different. To the goats, to those on His left, the King will say, “**Go away from Me, cursed ones, into the everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels!**” And “**these will go away to everlasting punishment.**” So, if you want to deny the existence of hell, then you are arguing with Jesus because He taught it. The reality of hell is as well established in the Scriptures as the reality of heaven. If you’re going to deny the one, then you may as well deny them both. But that won’t change what’s going to happen. *All people are going to either one or the other.*

The goats go away to eternal punishment, eternal fire. But the sheep, the righteous ones on the King’s right, will come into eternal life to inherit a kingdom. This is the blessed reality of heaven, *being at home with the Lord forever*. It is much better to go to graze with the sheep than to go to blazes with the goats! Our final destination is going to last *a long time*. But know for a fact that it will be one or the other. There will be a Judgment Day, with an eternal separation.

The second thing about the separation of the sheep and the goats is this: The judgment will be on the basis of works. Yes, the King will judge us according to our works – but note the following carefully.

To one group, the King will say, “**I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave Me a drink. I was a stranger, and you took Me into your homes,** ³⁶ **naked, and you gave Me something to wear, sick, and you looked after Me, in prison, and you visited Me.**” And then, on the other hand, “**I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat, thirsty, and you did not give Me a drink,** ⁴³ **a stranger, and you did not take Me into your homes, naked, and you did not give Me anything to wear, sick and in prison, and you did not look after Me,**” So it will be good works, either done or not done, that will be the standard for judgment.

Did you know that this is the consistent teaching of Scripture - judgment according to works? For example, earlier in Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus says, “*For the Son of Man is going to come in His Father’s glory with His angels and then He will repay each person according to what he has done*” (Matthew 16:27). St. Paul teaches likewise. In 2 Corinthians, he writes, “*We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due to him according to what he has done while in the body, whether good or bad*” (2 Corinthians 5:10). In the last chapter of Revelation, Jesus says, “*See! I am coming soon, and My reward is with Me, to repay everyone according to what he has done*” (Revelation 22:12).

And so, the church teaches and confesses this doctrine of judgment according to works. The Athanasian Creed, after the familiar line about Christ coming again to judge the living and the dead, goes on to say: “*At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds. And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.*” This, then, is our church’s teaching - judgment according to works. Good works done will be cited as evidence when the righteous are rewarded. Good works not done likewise will be cited as evidence when those on the left are told to depart.

So our first two points about the sheep and the goats are these: First, there will be a judgment, a separation, and second, this judgment will be according to works. Then the third point: ***Only faith in Christ can produce the good works that righteous sheep do.*** Notice what the King says when He commends their good deeds, “**I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave Me a drink,**” and so on. “**Truly, I tell you, anything you have done for one of My brothers here, even the least important of them, you have done for Me.**” Everything is centred on the person of the King. If the work is done in connection with Christ, then it is regarded as a good work. If there is no connection with Christ, then there are no good works. Note this well! You must be linked to Christ and His goodness - that divine, righteous goodness by which we sinners are accounted as good - for any good works to speak of. Faith in Christ is the key to whether your works will be judged as good or not.

So, in the final analysis, it is faith that saves - *faith in Christ.* Faith alone, apart from works. Our works do not, in the slightest degree, *merit* our salvation. It is a free gift, pure grace. Only Jesus Christ and His work can earn our salvation for us. Jesus died on the cross to wipe the slate clean for us. His precious blood washes away our unfavourable record of sins. Those sins will not be brought forward when the books are opened. Christ’s righteousness is bestowed on us as a gift. His perfect holiness purifies our imperfect works, so they are then regarded as good works for His sake. Christ remembers only the good we have done, and He sees in our poor little deeds of mercy, which we would never dare to plead, our Yes to Him.

So, how do we understand this relationship between faith and works when it comes to judgment? ***Faith alone saves, but the faith that saves is never alone.*** It is always accompanied by works. Saving faith will produce good works. So, the works are the evidence that a living faith was indeed present in the believer. Faith works. Like a good tree, it will bear good fruit.

When the Lutheran reformers presented their Augsburg Confession, which taught justification by grace through faith, their opponents brought against them Scripture passages like our text today, which speak of judgment according to works. How did the Lutherans respond? Like this, from the Apology of the Augsburg Confession: “*In these and all similar passages where works are praised in the Scriptures, it is necessary to understand not only outward works, but also the faith of the heart... When eternal life is granted to works, it is granted to those who have been justified. Only justified people, who are led by the Spirit of Christ, can do good works. Without faith and Christ as Mediator, good works do not please God.... ‘You gave me food’ is cited as the fruit and evidence of the righteousness of the heart and of faith... In this way Scripture lumps together the righteousness of the heart and its fruit.*”

So do not look to your works to save you. Notice that the righteous, the sheep, are kind of surprised when their good works are mentioned: “**Lord, when did we see You hungry,**” etc. You see, they weren’t busy keeping score

and hoping to earn brownie points as they went through life. Instead, their good works are cited to show that they indeed had a living faith connected to Christ. And so faith in Christ will produce good works toward the neighbour.

The righteous do not look to their own works. They look to the finished work of Christ, who alone can produce works that are accounted as good before God. The key thing is to be connected to Christ. And that comes only through the Gospel, the good news of sins forgiven by the cleansing blood of Christ, shed on the cross. That's the only way your bad record - all the bad things you did and all the good things you failed to do - that's the only way your bad record can be erased and then replaced with works that are considered good for the sake of God's own Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the good news we have today: God has forgiven us for the sake of Jesus! Jesus is our righteousness! Jesus is our life! Our eternal life. Life that overcomes the grave, even as Jesus rose from the dead on the third day. Life that will stand in the Day of Judgment, for our Judge is also our Saviour!

All of this is a gift, dependent on the goodness of the Giver: **“Come, you whom My Father has blessed! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the time when the world was created!”** It is all God's doing. He is the One who blesses us, who puts us in line for an inheritance. He had prepared His heavenly kingdom for us before we could do anything about it. So this text of ours today, which on the surface may seem like we have to pile up our works in order to merit salvation, is instead a most comforting passage of salvation by grace.

The clouds of judgment gather. The day is surely drawing near. Christ is surely coming. Judgment Day is coming, and we shall all appear before the throne of the King to receive what is coming to us. By God's grace, only our works done from faith in Christ will be mentioned, the evidence of a genuine and living faith. By God's grace, we shall receive the reward of the righteous - eternal life in His kingdom.

Dear friends, God, in His grace, has made us one of His sheep. Therefore, we follow our Good Shepherd in faith, doing the good works God has prepared for us to do, and rejoice in the fact that we shall receive the eternal kingdom God has prepared for us, as well. Amen.

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

PRAYER FOR THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

Almighty God, heavenly Father, we worship You for You are holy and righteous. Your glory fills the universe; Your mercy is never-ending; Your truth lasts for ever. We, Your people, ask You to be in our midst and to hear our prayers.

We thank You for all Your mercies, which are new to us every day. We praise You for leading us from the darkness of sin and death to eternal light through Your Word. We thank You for every blessing, in particular for the gift of Your Son Jesus Christ, who, though Lord of all, took the nature of a servant, appeared in human likeness and became a man like us. We worship Him who humbled Himself and walked the path of obedience all the way to death on a cross, so that we might receive the forgiveness of sins, the assurance of eternal life, and the certainty of the glorious resurrection of the body on the Last Day. Strengthen our hope in Your promise of everlasting life, and through the assurance that You have chosen Your own and recorded their names in Your book of life before the foundation of the world.

O Lord, confirm us in our freedom from the sting of sin and make us strong through Jesus' victory over the grave. Give us such faith and hope in Christ that we may conquer all fear of death, and live in the confidence that, because He lives, we shall also live for ever.

Protect us from the troubles of this world, from its false messiahs and prophets, and from the tribulation of the last days. Teach us how short our lives are, that we may be wise and live safely in Your truth and love.

Bless the work that we do in Your name, and grant that we may keep on doing it untiringly while it is day, before the night finally falls on this world. Move us to share our resources with the less fortunate and to work for the well-being of all people. Cleanse Your Church from everything impure and false, that it may be pure and faultless when the Lord returns. Provide your church with preachers who are strong in faith.

Rule and direct the nations of the earth. Undermine all human pride and arrogance, and destroy all slavery and oppression. Stand by those who are persecuted. Uphold all who live in reverence and obedience to You. Free our country from all evil. Direct our leaders; give us statesmen who are upright, business and labour leaders who are unselfish, and scientists and teachers who are God-fearing.

Look in mercy on all who are sick, on all who have burdens of body, mind, or spirit. Heal them according to Your love and their need. Comfort all who are bereaved, and wipe all tears from our eyes.

Give us the peace that passes all human understanding, and the hope that never fades away. We ask all these things in the name that is above every other name: Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Article: When You Are Alone, Christ Is with You

Nothing lasts forever. You and I know that rationally, but emotionally we would rather not face it. And we aren't the first generation to avoid this truth: early Spanish explorers came to America (Florida) looking for the fabled fountain of youth. In our own country, we've commercialised their search and made it into a science. Health clubs, diet systems, and exercise programs are lucrative ventures for entrepreneurs to cash in on society's perpetual quest for beautiful bodies and youthful vigour.

Don't get me wrong, health and fitness are important. But many of us are in denial. Though we know we're not immortal, we prefer to live as if we are. The thought of giving up familiar daily work in retirement is bad enough, but dying?

Human life is fragile. We're all just one short breath and a few feeble heartbeats away from death at any given moment. Some of us put our lives at risk routinely, but thankfully, most of us don't often have a reason to think seriously about dying.

But that can change in an instant. Sometimes, the spectre of death breaks in on us suddenly and intensely - a tragic accident, perhaps. A violent crime. A dire illness. Any number of calamities can suddenly bring us face-to-face with mortality. In one horrific moment, our resilience dissipates. We find it impossible to remain serene and calm when facing death - our own or that of those we love.

Nothing lasts forever. If we want stability, we'll need to find an anchor outside this turbulent world.

The prophet Isaiah writes, "*The word of our God will stand forever*" (40:8). Because God Himself is eternal, His Word lasts to all eternity. Nothing else endures.

Check your mirror: have you noticed a stray grey hair appearing unexpectedly or unwelcome wrinkles? We seem surprised that we grow older, as though somehow we can avoid the passage of time.

We should know better, of course. Most adults notice how children seem to grow by inches every passing month and how suddenly babies turn into toddlers. But for some reason, we think that when we at last arrive at the prime of life, we're going to stay there permanently. In this decaying world, nobody gets a pass on death.

It's not only the frail elderly who die. I've buried little children as well as young adults in the prime of life. No doubt death has touched you, too; you likely already know intimately the pain of loss and the gruelling ache of grief.

Here's the unvarnished truth: death is here to stay until Jesus returns to claim His bride, the church. On that final day, He will raise all the saints in the power of His resurrection, out of the dust of death into risen eternal glory. But Jesus has not abandoned us until then. We aren't just biding our time, running out the clock in this dying world. We have an anchor in eternity. Jesus promises to be with us every step of the way, even in calamity and the darkest valleys of our lives. He ties His eternal presence to His living and abiding Word.

Jesus told Peter, "*The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life*" (John 6:63). When tragedy interrupts our lives or adversity strikes, we need to listen to Jesus. He links His life-giving Spirit to the words He speaks.

Peter was listening carefully. So when Jesus asked his disciples if they were going to leave - like many others who rejected His teaching - Peter spoke for them all. "*Lord, to whom shall we go?*" he said. "*You have the words of eternal life*" (John 6:68).

Perhaps in your own personal world, facing decline and loss, you've begun to wonder if Jesus has abandoned you to muddle through as best you can. When everything seems stacked against you, people often begin to think that God is against them, too. Whether you've faced long days of ongoing distress

or one short hour of deep darkness, you may sense you've been abandoned by both God and everyone you know. Don't believe it for a minute. Christ Jesus has promised to be with you in His abiding Word of grace and hope.

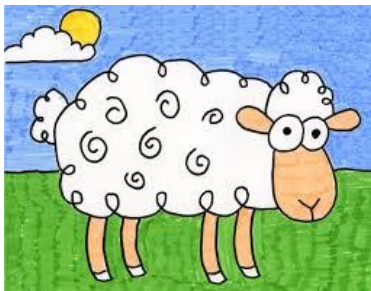
All this calls for faith, of course. But in the deepest valleys and most anxious moments of life, faith is frequently in short supply. Where will you find the faith you need to survive and thrive? The same place you find Jesus: in His Word. "*Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ*" (Romans 10:17).

See how that works? Instead of retreating into your head to cope with misery, you need to get out of yourself. In stressful times fears and doubts cycle endlessly through our minds in a continuous loop of anxiety and distress. Break that ugly cycle. Find a quiet place where you can talk out loud. Open up your Bible, and read aloud the words of Jesus. His words are Spirit and life.

Those very words of Jesus will give you the faith you need to speak aloud your prayers and praises, petitions and thanksgivings. Don't hold anything back. In His calming presence, you can pour out the contents of your anguished heart in confident prayer.

There's only one place to be when calamity strikes or the darkness of this decaying world engulfs you in its fearful grip. Isolation is your enemy - there's no way to tackle personal distress or public tragedy alone. But you don't need to. Go to Jesus; He has the words of eternal life. And those words are life for you.

Children's Message:



In Matthew 25:31-46, we hear Jesus talk about us, you and me, as His sheep. Sheep are very simple animals. They're not sleek like horses or speedy like cheetahs or friendly like dogs. What do sheep do all day? They eat and they rest. That's about it. Sheep also like to stay together, and they get nervous if they're separated from the flock. If this happens, the sheep need a shepherd to go after them and find them.

Jesus says that His sheep are blessed by the Father and that they will enjoy God's kingdom forever. What does this mean, to be blessed by God? We, the sheep, are God's dear children. He has made us His own. He shows His outrageous, amazing love toward us, even when we sin and do wrong things. Elsewhere in the Bible, Jesus says He is our Good Shepherd. In John 10:11, He says, "*I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.*" We are Jesus' little lambs and stay close to Jesus, our Shepherd, who showed His love for us by laying down His life to die for our sins.

As God's dear ones, the sheep behave in certain ways. About them, Jesus says, "*For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave Me a drink. I was a stranger, and you took Me into your homes, naked, and you gave Me something to wear, sick, and you looked after Me, in prison, and you visited Me*" (vv 35-36).

So, who did these sheep feed, clothe, or visit? Jesus says, "*Truly, I tell you, anything you have done for one of My brothers here, even the least important of them, you have done for Me*" (v 40). Here, Jesus is saying that as His children, we love and serve our neighbour. It may seem as if we're doing it for that person, but in the end, we do this for Jesus. When you give someone a glass of water, you do it for Jesus. You love that person because of Jesus.

Today, I want you to remember that you are loved by Jesus. You are like a sheep, and He is your Shepherd. He wants to love you and care for you. Because of His love and care, you love your neighbour in return.

Dear Jesus, thank You for being our dear Shepherd. Thank You for loving us even when we don't deserve it. Please help us to serve the people around us with Your love. Amen.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

3 December 1 Advent	10 December 2 Advent	17 December 3 Advent
10.00am TMBA HC AELC Service, Advent lunch and Advent program	8.30am OAK HC 9.00am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.15am GRN HC 7.00pm MARBURG Children's Christmas Program	8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am MARBURG HC
Sunday, 3 December		
READINGS: Isaiah 64:1-9;	Romans 10:5-15;	John 17:1-19
HYMNS: 10 243 379 179 287 (291 if needed) 245		
Sunday, 10 December		
READINGS: Isaiah 40:1-11;	2 Peter 3:8-14;	Mark 1:1-8
HYMNS: 7 13 490 (84 292) 9		

PLEASE NOTE: Changes have been made to the schedule for December. Please follow the insert you will find in today's bulletin.

Next Sunday will be as follows:

10.00am HC Thanksgiving Service for Pastor's 25 years in the ministry.

12.00pm – 1.00pm shared lunch in the hall.

1.00pm – 1.30pm We shall go into the church for a short Advent program. There will be NO Advent program in the nighttime at Oakey, as previously announced.

Tuesday, December 5, 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Oakey.

Thursday, December 7, 10.00am. Bible Study at Lowood. (Please let Pastor know if this day doesn't suit).

December 17, 7.30pm. Carols Evening at Oakey.

Please take home with you today:

CoC and Seminary Committee minutes.

A devotion book in preparation for Advent.