

Australian Evangelical Lutheran Church
BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,
ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, TRINITY MARBURG, TRINITY OAKEY
5 November 2023 Confirmation Sunday (All Saints' Day)

HYMNS: 301 213 296 164 293 299

INTROIT: Psalm 149

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, His praise in the assembly of devout people!

Let Israel rejoice in its Maker! Let the children of Zion be joyful over their King! Let them praise His name with dancing! Let them make music to Him with tambourine and lyre!

For the LORD takes pleasure in His people. He glorifies humble people with salvation.

Let devout people be jubilant in glory! Let them shout for joy on their beds! Let the high praises of God be in their throats, and double-edged swords in their hands, to carry out vengeance on the nations and punishments on the peoples, to tie up their kings with chains and their nobles' feet with iron shackles, to carry out the judgment that has been written against them! This is an honour that belongs to all His devout people. Praise the LORD!

COLLECT: Almighty God, You have knit together Your chosen people in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Give us grace so that we may follow Your blessed holy people in all pure and godly living, and so that we may come to those unspeakable joys that You have prepared for those who sincerely love You, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

READINGS:

Revelation 7:9-17 Multitudes before the throne of God and of the Lamb.

1 John 3:1-3 The children of God.

Matthew 5:1-12 Rejoice, for you have a great reward in heaven.

Welcome to all worshipping with us! Today we welcome into communicant membership Gemma Hausler, Trinity Beutel, Lauren Ziebell, and Justine Wieck.

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.

Revelation 7:2-17

² Then I saw another angel coming up from the east with the seal of the living God. He called out with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to damage the land and the sea, ³ saying: “Do not damage the land or the sea or the trees until we have **sealed** the servants of our God **on their foreheads!**”

⁴ Then I heard the number of those who had been sealed: “one hundred and forty-four thousand.” These were those who had been sealed were from every tribe of the people of Israel. ⁵ From the tribe of Judah twelve thousand had been sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, ⁶ from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand, ⁷ from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, ⁸ from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand and from the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand had been sealed. ⁹ After this, I looked and saw a large crowd that no one could count, from every **nation and all tribes, peoples and languages**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and carrying palm-branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They called out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our **God, who sits on the throne** and to the Lamb!”

¹¹ All the angels were standing around the throne, around the elders and around the four living creatures. They **fell** on their faces before the throne and **worshipped God**, ¹² saying: “Amen! Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honour, power and strength be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.”

¹³ Then one of the elders asked me: “Who are these people who have been clothed in the white robes and where have they come from?”

¹⁴ I replied to him, “My master, you know.”

He told me: “These are the people who have come out of the great tribulation. They have **washed** their **robes** and have made them white in **the blood of the Lamb**.

¹⁵ Therefore, they are before the throne of God and keep serving Him day and night in His Temple, and **He who is sitting on the throne** will shelter them with His tent.

¹⁶ **They will not be hungry any longer or thirsty any longer. The sun will certainly not beat on them or any scorching heat,** ¹⁷ because the Lamb, who is in the middle of the throne, **will be their Shepherd and lead them to springs of the water of life. God will wipe every tear from their eyes.**”

1 John 3:1-3

¹ See what great love the Father has given to us, that we are called “the children of God”! That is what we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it has not known Him. ² Dearly loved people, we are now the children of God, but it

has not yet been shown what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him because we shall see Him as He is.

³ Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Matthew 5:1-12

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountainside. When He sat down, His disciples came to Him. ² Then He began to speak and continued to teach them:

³ “Blessed are those who are **poor in spirit!** For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are **those who mourn!** For they will be **comforted.**

⁵ “Blessed are **those who are meek!** For they **will inherit the earth.**

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness! For they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are **those who are merciful!** For **they will be treated mercifully.**

⁸ “Blessed are **those who are pure in heart!** For they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are those who make peace! For they will be called ‘the children of God.’

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who have been persecuted because of righteousness! For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you, because of Me! ¹² Rejoice and be very glad! For your reward in heaven is great. For in this way people persecuted the prophets who were before you.

THAT CHRIST MAY DWELL IN YOUR HEARTS **Sermon for Confirmation Day, Trinity Oakey 2023** **Ephesians 3:17-19**

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 Ephesians 3:17-19: **That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, and that you may be firmly rooted and established in love.**

¹⁸ **I ask that you, with all God’s holy people, will be able to grasp what the width, length, height, and depth is,** ¹⁹ **and that you will know the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.**

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

Dear friends in Christ,

Each time we confess the Creed, we say, “I believe” and not “we believe” because *what you believe is something personal.* I cannot believe for you, and you cannot believe for me. What is it that you believe in every time you confess the Creed? Your faith in Christ.

The very first question asked in *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* is, "What is the Christian faith?" The answer is, "The Christian faith is the confession that Jesus Christ is the world's only Saviour and Redeemer." This is your confession; this is what you believe in. You may have a very devout and pious mother or father and come from a religious family, but the confession that Jesus Christ is the world's only Saviour and Redeemer – your only Saviour and Redeemer, must come from your very own lips. As Saint Paul writes, "*For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved*" (Romans 10:10).

And yet, while the belief - that faith in Jesus alone as the Saviour is a personal matter, *we are not alone in our faith*. Take, for example, Elijah. He thought that he was the only one in Israel who believed in the true God, but he learned that there were 7000 in Israel who had not bowed down to Baal, the false god of the Canaanites.¹

Gemma, Lauren, Trinity, and Justine, when you confess your belief in Jesus as your Saviour today, be assured that there are others who join you in your dedication to Christ, who all pray together that "**Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.**"

The apostle Paul wrote Ephesians to the churches around Ephesus (Acts 19) to display the scope of God's eternal plan for all humanity, hidden for ages but now made known in Jesus Christ. The first three chapters of Ephesians focus on what Christians should believe, unfolding the glorious riches of God's grace in Christ. Dead sinners are made alive and gain eternal salvation "*by grace ... through faith*" (2:8).

The words of our text are part of a prayer Paul addressed to the Lord on behalf of the congregation at Ephesus – with very good reason. Much opposition was marked by his stay in Ephesus when he founded the congregation. In fact, in his First letter to the Corinthians, Paul said that he had "*fought wild animals at Ephesus*" (15:32), meaning the conduct and behaviour of the enemies of the Gospel was animal-like. Again, he said: "*Our suffering in the province of Asia was so extreme, so much more than we could stand, we even despaired of living*" (2 Cor. 1:8). Things were so bad for Paul that he truly thought he was going to die. And as he was writing this Letter to the Ephesians, he was a prisoner of the Roman government.

The concern Paul had was this: *What effect would his personal troubles have on these newborn Christians at Ephesus?* Paul had claimed that he was a servant of the true God. He had taught that the Lord was all-powerful and that He was a God of love and kindness. But his experiences in Ephesus hardly gave that impression. Where was this God of power when Paul was suffering so much from the enemies of the Gospel? What happened to this God of love as Paul was languishing in a Roman prison? Is this the way God treats His favourite sons? If anything, Paul appeared as one rejected, and his God stood weak in the presence of the enemies of the Gospel.

¹ 1 Kings 19:18

That all this disturbed the apostle and that he was concerned about its effect on the Ephesians is apparent from his Letter. “*I ask you not to get discouraged by what I suffer for you,*” he said before adding, “*For this reason I kneel before the Father... and ask Him, as He is rich in glory, to give you this, that His Spirit will inwardly strengthen you with power*” (Eph. 3:13, 14, 16). He was afraid that the trouble and opposition he had met in Ephesus may reflect on the power of the Gospel and the love of God. For that reason, he prayed for the Ephesians “**that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.**”

The world has not changed since the days of the apostle Paul, and the prayer of the church on behalf of you four girls is still very much in place: “**That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.**”

There is still much opposition to the teachings of Jesus Christ. We hear it everywhere. From the classrooms that like to teach evolution and gender fluidity and the rest to governments and political parties that like to make laws regarding abortion, euthanasia and single-sex marriage – all these are in direct opposition to the teachings of Jesus. Life on this earth is not based on the commandments of God but on the many sinful desires of man. Sure, for now, the church may still enjoy a certain measure of acceptance today, yet the world we live in is far from a religious paradise.

But perhaps the greatest danger that confronts our faith is the smug satisfaction with which our world, and oftentimes the church, accepts mediocrity and shallowness. We are content to leave religious matters in the air. Religion is a kind of vague and sentimental belief in a god. Modern man meets the teachings of Jesus Christ with a shrug of the shoulder and the question: How do you know it’s true? and is satisfied with that. He wants to be broad-minded and, in the process, *becomes extremely shallow.*

The spirit of our age today is often to believe in everything just a little bit. We ask questions but don’t take the time to find the answer. We take pride in being tolerant but forget that we have no convictions of our own.

Unfortunately, this conviction creeps into the church. We are content to regard confirmation as graduation from all further study of the Word. As a result, so much of Christianity today is shallow and without depth. There is often *no real conviction.* We are satisfied with a poor performance and accept failure as inevitable.

As we said earlier, in the apostle Paul’s day, the enemies of the Gospel had acted as wild animals. They viciously attacked the church by force and sought to destroy the Cross of Christ by the sword. Today they come in sheep’s clothing, and with the sweet voice of sophistication say: ***It may be sweet and nice to believe in Jesus, but why don’t you face life realistically and ditch all this sentimental stuff?***

This makes the religious climate of our day dangerous. Under the pressure of public opinion there is the temptation that we may lose our faith – that we ‘may lose heart.’

As we look to Paul's prayer on behalf of the congregation at Ephesus, I want you to note that he did not ask God to release him from prison. He didn't ask God to remove the stigma that was attached to the preaching of the Cross. The Greeks thought it was foolish, and the Jews regarded it as a stumbling block.² Paul didn't pray that God would send fire and brimstone from heaven to destroy the enemies of the church. He didn't seek to fortify them with counterarguments: "If they say this against Christ, answer them in this way," and so on. Rather, his prayer was very simple: **"That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, and that you may be firmly rooted and established in love. I ask that you, with all God's holy people, will be able to grasp what the width, length, height, and depth is, and that you will know the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."**

There was no question in Paul's mind that these Ephesians were Christians. He had earlier called them *"people who are holy and faithful in Christ Jesus"* (1:1). These people knew Jesus. They had believed Him to be their Saviour. They had followed Him as their Shepherd and Lord. But Paul's prayer asked that they would know and experience this love of Christ to its fullest extent – that they may be able to **"grasp what the width, length, height, and depth is."**

Paul was confident that if their faith and love were deepened, all opposition to the Gospel could not dent their shield of faith. Once they tasted the sweetness of the Gospel to its fullest, no one could tell them that it was sour or tasteless. And this is true today. No matter how great the temptation that confronts us, if we are strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, we shall stand firm. Remember the Introit from last Sunday, Psalm 46. That Psalm says: *"Even when the earth quakes, the mountains topple into the sea; even when the waters roar and foam, and the mountains shake in the middle of it, ... The Lord of armies is with us; the God of Jacob is our Refuge."* Comprehending the love of Christ to its fullest gives us strength to withstand all.

To overcome our day's temptations, you must know yourself. And know Christ, and you will know yourself. What are you? What is man? Can he play the part of God and get away with it? Is he a genius who can figure out all things? Is he a giant that can do all things? Or is he a weak and helpless creature doomed to failure and misery? As someone put it, is he a sick fly clinging precariously to the universe as it spins around in space? Know Christ, and you will know yourself.

Remember when Peter stood in the presence of Christ after our Lord had directed him to a great catch of fish? He said to Jesus, *"Depart from me, O Lord, for I am a sinful man"* (Luke 5:8). In the presence of Christ's majesty and power, he felt his own insignificance and guilt. Similarly, the apostle Paul, proud Pharisee as he was, when he learned to know Jesus, burst out: *"I am the chief of sinners"* (1 Tim. 1:15). *"I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwells no good thing,"* (Rom. 7:18). *"O wretched man that I*

² 1 Corinthians 1:23

am! *Who shall deliver me from the body that brings me to this death?*" (Rom. 7:24). In Christ, we see ourselves as we are - sinner who have fallen far short of the perfection of Christ.

But in Christ, we also see what we can be – children of the heavenly Father, children of God *"created in Christ Jesus to do good works, in which God long ago planned for us to live"* (Eph. 2:10). *"Once you were no people,"* says the apostle Peter, *"but now you are God's people. Once you had received no mercy, but now you have received mercy"* (1 Peter 2:10). *"You are a chosen people, priests of a King, a holy nation, a people saved to be his own and to tell of the wonderful deeds of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light"* (1 Peter 2:9).

Christ has broken down the wall of separation between God and man. Paul tells us, *"God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself"* (2 Cor. 5:19). As our Saviour, He fulfilled the Law for us. *"Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone that believes"* (Rom. 10:4). He suffered and died and rose again to atone for our sins. God *"has made Him who did not know sin to be sin for us and to make us God's righteousness in Him"* (2 Cor. 5:21.) He *"was delivered for our offences and was raised for our justification, (Rom. 4:25). "By His wounds we were healed"* (Is. 53:5). I could go on.

Knowing Christ by faith not only draws us into the family of God and makes us heirs of Christ, but it also puts us in a position where we can draw on the power of Christ. Paul said: *"I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me"* (Phil. 4:13). And the apostle John echoes the same truth when he writes: *"Who is that overcomes the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"* (1 John 5:5).

The disciples of our Lord were transformed by the love of Christ. Before they experienced a fuller knowledge of Christ, they timidly hid behind locked doors for fear of the Jews. But on the day of Pentecost, when their eyes of faith were able to comprehend more clearly the love of Christ, they stood up before a hostile world and boldly witnessed to their faith in their risen Lord.

Who is able to overcome the world? Christ is the source of strength and power. *"Neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor things present nor things to come nor powers nor height nor depth nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord"* (Rom. 8:38-39). *"In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us"* (Rom. 8:37).

Can you now understand why Paul prayed as he did: *"For this reason I bend my knees before the Father... **that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.**"* In Christ they would have all they needed to withstand the temptations of the devil, the world, and their flesh. In Him they would be more than conquerors.

Dear friends, and especially dear Gemma, Lauren, Trinity, and Justine, this pearl of great price, this priceless treasure – faith in Christ, *is God's greatest gift to you.* You have learned to know Jesus, who is the Son of God. You have learned to know Him as your Saviour and Lord. Our prayer for you as you go out into the world is that you may

have **“with all God’s holy people”** the power **“to grasp what the width, length, height, and depth is, and that you will know the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge,”** and in His might to withstand the fiery darts of Satan until you hear the victory call: *“Well done, good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of your Master.”*

To this end, I direct you to the Word, to the Scriptures. Faith comes by hearing the Word.³ Faith is nourished by feeding on the Word. The Word is the milk, which makes for growth. It is the medicine that heals. Remember, it is *“the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes”* (Romans 1:16). This Word, along with the sacraments, your baptism, which assures you of God’s grace and power, and the Lord’s Supper, which is God’s heavenly meal prepared for you for the strengthening of your faith and the nourishment of your soul. *Continue in these things!* Share in the work of the Lord! And the promises of Christ will be yours now and in eternity. Amen.

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

PRAYER FOR ALL SAINTS’ DAY

Almighty God and Father, in wisdom You have made the world and all things, seen and unseen. We praise You for the gift of life, for the wonderful creation of our bodies, for our moral and spiritual capacities, and for the marvellous gifts of intelligence and reason. But, above all else, we thank and praise You for the gift of faith, by which we know You and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. We praise and worship Him for showing us Your great love by dying the death that enables sinners to live for ever. We praise You for the gift of the Holy Spirit, who has brought us to faith in Jesus, and has changed our hearts from rebellion against You to love and praise for You.

Today we thank you for all the saints remembered and forgotten, for those dear souls who are now standing in Your presence. We thank You for calling them in this life to be Your children, and we thank You that we too, have been called by You to be saints.

Therefore, let us clearly recognise what it means to be called the children of God, and to remember that we are your saints not by our own inclination nor strength, but simply by Your gracious call and forgiveness that we have freely received through our Saviour, Christ Jesus.

In mercy, pour out Your Spirit on us anew each day, so that our love, knowledge, and spiritual power may keep on growing, and our lives may be filled with the truly good qualities that only Jesus Christ can produce. Lead us by Your Spirit to love one another with brotherly love, and to forgive one another as You have forgiven us for Christ’s sake.

³ Romans 10:17

Keep Your church in the true fellowship of the Gospel, that it may stand firm in the faith. Protect it against all its enemies, that it may serve You freely. We ask you to continue to bless the ministry of the AELC and the ULMA, and to raise up men to be pastors to Your flock. Continue to guide and bless the students studying in both these churches so they can shine Your light into a darkened world.

We remember those of Your children who are being persecuted because of their faith. Uphold them by Your Spirit, and give them patient endurance, that they may witness to Your saving power. Move those who oppress them to turn to You. Free Your people from all falsehood and error and lead them along the road of truth and godliness.

Bring shame and discredit on those who continue to advocate abortion, homosexuality and single-sex marriage. Fill the leaders of the nations with Your light and dispel the darkness of sin and spiritual ignorance, giving wisdom and strength to all in authority in our country, that they may serve according to Your direction, and our people may live in unity and uprightness. Lead people everywhere to enjoy peace and happiness as they learn to love and follow You.

Move parents to sow Your Word in the hearts of their children, that the young may be raised in the ways of Christ and live lives that are a blessing to church, country, and mankind. Give parents the understanding and patience they need for their God-given responsibilities.

Watch over the sick, the sad, and the troubled. Stand by them in their various sufferings and help them in all their burdens. Protect all who are in any danger of body or soul and save them by Your wise love. Help us in all times of need to look to You for pardon, peace, and healing.

O faithful and gracious Lord, today you are giving Gemma, Lauren, Trinity, and Justine the special joy of publicly confessing their faith and renewing their dedication to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Give them Your strength and courage to make this confession with sincerity, and to fulfil it in the days ahead. Remind them of their baptism and of the covenant You made with them on that day. Keep them faithful until the end of their lives, that they may obtain the heavenly crown. Keep them in Your grace. Make their hearts the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, so that He may direct them in the paths of righteousness.

These, and all other things that we may need, give us for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour, who, together with You and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Article: Commemorating the Saints

Satan's always working to confuse our theology. If he can't knock us off the horse on one side, he'll try to knock us off the other. He's done a really great job when it comes to commemorating the saints.

Sometimes I hear people say: "We're Lutherans! We don't commemorate saints! That's too catholic!"

But that would be to fall off the horse on the other side.

Now, of course we don't want to imitate the Roman error whereby we seek the so-called "merits of the saints." Christ is the world's Redeemer, the *only* Mediator between God and man. To look to anyone or anything but Christ alone for salvation is crass idolatry.

But that doesn't mean we forget about the saints entirely. After all, we believe "...in the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints," don't we?

As Lutherans, in accord with the Church's faith in every generation, we believe, teach, and confess that the remembrance of the saints is to be commended in order that we may imitate their faith and good works according to their calling (*Augsburg Confession*, 21).

Remember, a saint isn't someone we go to in prayer so we can get a little extra favour in God's eyes or to get help in selling our house. A saint is one who has been made holy. This is what the Holy Spirit has done for you in Holy Baptism, where the flood of Christ's own blood has made you holy, right, and good before your heavenly Father.

We remember and thank God for the saints' lives on a Sunday in the Divine Service when we gather at the Lord's table with "angels, archangels, and all the company of heaven." Who is that company of heaven but the saints?

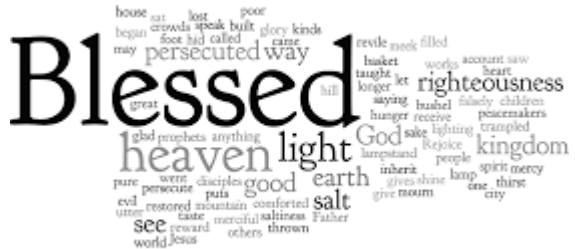
After we commune, we sing the hymn of Saint Simeon (the Nunc Dimittis, "Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace..."). Next, we pray that the love of Christ would not only fill our own cup but run over that we would live "in fervent love toward one another." This is a prayer that we would regard and treat one another as saints. As St. Paul says, "*So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God*" (Ephesians 2:19).

To despise the commemoration of saints is to sever our communion in Christ, to forget how indispensable the other members of Christ's Body are. When we confess our faith in the communion of saints, we confess the vitality of our fellowship with one another, both with the saints who live here with Christ on earth and the saints who live with Him in heaven. Forgetting about the saints is just as bad as seeking their merits. Throwing the baby out with the bathwater is just as bad as drowning the baby in the bathtub.

Children's Message:

What are some things that make you happy? Maybe some things that make you happy are getting a new toy, eating a favourite food, or playing a video game. All these things may make us happy because they're things we want. There's nothing wrong with these things; God's goodness is so great that He gives us much more than we need, like all sorts of fun gifts like these.

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus describe people who are blessed. What does it mean to be "blessed"? We may hear people say they are "blessed" when they win the lottery, become a movie star, or win a football game. So, does being blessed mean that we're happy? Or that we get all the things we want? What does Jesus say? Does He say that those who are blessed are happy?



Actually, He doesn't. Jesus calls those who are blessed "poor in spirit." To be poor in spirit means to be meek or humble, not proud. Those who are humble are small or little. They're low, not high; they're weak, not strong.

And that's who we are in God's kingdom. We are the weak, little, humble ones who are blessed by God. We don't have any good things to give to Jesus. We merely hold out our hands, willing to receive the good gifts God puts in them. We receive His gifts of love and mercy. We receive His gifts of our homes, food, clothing, and so many other things. We receive these gifts humbly and with thanksgiving.

Jesus was our model for being humble, lowly, and meek. Jesus was poor in spirit by allowing Himself to be made fun of and mocked even when He had done nothing wrong. Jesus was also meek. He did not speak up and defend Himself. Jesus was a peacemaker. He made us at peace with God through His death on the cross. Jesus was pure in heart in that He did nothing wrong, and had no sin. By Jesus' death on the cross, we're blessed with that goodness, grace, and salvation.

To be a Christian doesn't mean we'll always be happy. We won't get what we want. To be a Christian means that Jesus is the most important thing in our lives. We seek to be like Him, knowing that through His grace, we have all we need. *Dear Jesus, thank you for blessing us with your grace and love. Thank you for dying for us so that heaven and all your blessings are ours. Amen.*

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

12 November 24 Pentecost	19 November 25 Pentecost	26 November Last Sunday of the Church Year
8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am MARBURG LR	8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD HC (Harvest)	8.30am OAK HC Harvest 9.00am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.15am GRN HC Harvest 9.00am LOWOOD LR
Sunday, 12 November		
READINGS: Amos 5:18-24; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13		
HYMNS: 16 452 487 510		
Sunday, 19 November		
READINGS: Zephaniah 1:7-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30 HARVEST: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 12:13-21		
HYMNS: 463 485 372 339 LOWOOD: 562 (tune 282) 437 563 333 842 890		

18 November, 10.00am. CoC/Sem Committee meeting at Marburg. Could the Seminary Committee reps please meet for a quick meeting at 9.30am?

Wednesday, November 22, 10am. Women's Guild & Breakup at Lowood. Opening devotion: *Margaret*. Choose a Bible verse from Numbers Chapters 9-12. Item of Interest: *A pretty dress hanger*. Bring a Christmas gift to the value of \$10 to exchange. Afterwards our breakup lunch will be at the Club Hotel Lowood. All welcome.

November Bible Studies:

Greenwood – Thursday, 23 November, 7.30pm.

Oakey/Aubigny – Friday, 24 November, 7.30pm at Oakey.

Toowoomba, Lowood/Marburg – no Bible Study in November.

Pastor will be away in Victoria from 9-15 November. If there is an emergency during this time, please contact one of the elders.