

Australian Evangelical Lutheran Church
BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,
ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, TRINITY MARBURG, TRINITY OAKEY
29th September Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

HYMNS: 119 341 179 346

INTROIT: Psalm 104:27-35

All of them wait for You to give them their food at the right time.

You give it to them, and they gather it up. You open Your hand, and they are satisfied with good things.

You hide Your face, and they are terrified. You take away their breath, and they expire and return to their dust.

You send out Your Spirit, and they are created, and You renew the surface of the earth.

May the glory of the LORD endure for ever! May the LORD rejoice in what He has made!

He looks at the earth, and it trembles. He touches the mountains, and they smoke.

Let me sing to the LORD throughout my life! Let me sing praise to my God all my life!

May my meditation be pleasing to Him! I shall rejoice in the LORD.

May sinners perish from the earth, and may there no longer be any wicked people! Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!

COLLECT:

Everlasting Father, source of every blessing, mercifully direct and govern us by Your Holy Spirit that we may complete the works You have prepared for us to do; 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 Ziebell can be contacted via phone/text at 0407 583922.

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

Email him at paziebell@gmail.com or to the church office at ddaelc@gmail.com. Pastor is usually in his office Tuesday-Wednesday for anyone who would like to call in. Other days of the week are set aside for visits.

READINGS: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 Moses chooses seventy leaders.

James 5:1-20 The power of prayer, and the duty to bring back the lost.

Mark 9:38-50 The unknown exorcist, and temptations to sin.

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

⁴ The non-Israelite rabble among them began to **have a strong craving**, and the Israelites wept again and said: “If only we had meat to eat! ⁵ We remember the fish that we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the watermelons, the leeks, the onions and the garlic. ⁶ Now, however, our appetites are shrivelled. There is nothing but this manna to look at!” ...

¹⁰ Moses heard the people weeping in their family groups, everyone at the door of his tent. The LORD became exceedingly angry, and Moses was upset. ¹¹ Moses asked the LORD: “Why have You brought trouble on Your servant and why are You not kindly disposed towards me? You are placing the burden of all these people on me! ¹² Have I fathered all these people? Have I given birth to them, that You should tell me: ‘Carry them in your arms, like a nurse carrying a baby, to the land that You have promised by an oath to their fathers’? ¹³ Where can I get meat to give to all these people? For they are weeping beside me and saying, ‘Give us meat to eat!’ ¹⁴ I alone cannot carry all these people. For they are too heavy for me. ¹⁵ If You are going to treat me like this, and, if You are kindly disposed towards me, please just kill me outright and let me not look at my misery!”

¹⁶ The LORD answered Moses: “Gather together for Me seventy men from the elders of Israel, whom you know to be elders of the people and officers over them! Bring them to the Tent of Meeting, that they may stand there with you!...

²⁴ Moses went out and told the people what the LORD had said. He also gathered seventy men from the elders of the people and made them stand around the tent.

²⁵ Then the LORD came down in a cloud and spoke to him and took some of the Spirit who was on Moses and put Him on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied but did not continue to do it. ²⁶ Two men, the one named Eldad and the other named Medad, had remained in the camp. The Spirit also rested on them. They had been among those who had been listed but had not gone out to the tent. However, they prophesied in the camp.

²⁷ Then a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp!”

²⁸ Joshua, the son of Nun, who had been Moses’ assistant since he had been a young man, spoke up and said, “My master, Moses, stop them!”

²⁹ Moses asked him: “Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the people of the LORD were prophets and that the LORD would put His Spirit on them!”

James 5:1-20

¹ Come now, rich people, weep and wail over the miseries that are coming on you!

² Your riches have become rotten, and moths have eaten your clothes. ³ Your gold and silver have become corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. ⁴ Look! The wages that you have held back from the workers who mowed your fields are crying out, and the outcries of those who did the harvesting have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. ⁵ You have lived on the earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened hearts in a day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and murdered the righteous man, who does not resist you.

⁷ Therefore, be patient, fellow-Christians, until the Lord comes! See how the farmer waits for the valuable crop of the ground and waits patiently for it until it receives the Autumn and the Spring rains! ⁸ You too, be patient and remain firm! For the Lord's coming is near. ⁹ Do not grumble against one another, fellow-Christians, that you may not be judged! Consider! The Judge is standing in front of the door. ¹⁰ Fellow-Christians, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of being patient in the face of wrong treatment! ¹¹ Remember that we call those people "blessed" who have persevered. You have heard how Job persevered and have seen what the Lord finally brought about, because the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

¹² Above all things, my fellow-Christians, do not swear, either by heaven or by the earth or with any other oath! Rather, let your "yes" be "yes," and your "no" be "no," that you may not come under judgment!

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering misfortune? Let him pray! Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise! ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with olive-oil in the name of the Lord! ¹⁵ The prayer offered in faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up, and, if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed! The effective prayer of a righteous person can do much. ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with the same nature as ours and prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and the heavens gave rain and the ground produced its crops.

¹⁹ My fellow-Christians, if anyone among you wanders away from the truth and someone turns him back, ²⁰ let him know that the person who has turned a sinner back from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins!

Mark 9:38-50

³⁸ John told Jesus, “Teacher, we saw someone who is not one of us driving out demons in Your name. We tried to stop him because he was not one of us.”

³⁹ Jesus said, “Do not try to stop him! For no one who works a miracle in My name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of Me. ⁴⁰ For he who is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ For truly, I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because of your name as followers of Christ will certainly not lose his reward.

⁴² “If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a heavy millstone were put around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea. ⁴³ If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off! It is better for you to enter life maimed than to go into hell with two hands, into the fire that will never be put out. ⁴⁵ If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off! It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷ If your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out! It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ where **their worm does not die, and the fire is not put out.**

⁴⁹ “For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰ Salt is good. However, if salt loses its saltiness, how will you make it taste salty again? Have salt in yourselves and be at peace with one another!”

IT IS BETTER FOR YOU

Sermon for the 19th Sunday after Pentecost 2024 Mark 9:38-50

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 Gospel from before, Mark 9:38-50:
Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us through Your truth, Your Word is truth. Amen.
Dear friends in Christ,

Not many people today like to talk about hell, and it’s probably because this topic is too sensitive to hear any talk of God actually judging people and sending them there. How dare He! Who does He think He is? Well, He is Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth, and He certainly can make that call. He is the almighty Judge, *who is always righteous in His judgments.*

Many today may not like talking about hell, but God’s Word certainly does. It speaks of God’s judgment and eternal damnation. Even so, you don’t hear a lot of sermons that even mention hell. Well, today you will because Jesus Himself talks about hell. Listen again to what He says, “**If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off! It is better for you to enter life maimed than to go into hell with two hands, into**

the fire that will never be put out. ⁴⁵ **If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off! It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell.** ⁴⁷ **If your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out! It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell,** ⁴⁸ **where their worm does not die, and the fire is not put out.”**

Notice the refrain that runs through this text: **“It is better for you.”** Over and over again, Jesus emphasises that it is better to enter life maimed than to go into hell with all of your members intact. So let’s explore why and hear how to avoid such a horrible fate, because there is a better outcome in store for any of us than to end up in hell.

First, what do we mean by the word “hell”?

In brief, it is the term used in the Bible for the place of eternal punishment for the ungodly in the age to come. That’s hell. The word used in our text for “hell” is the Greek word *“Gehenna.”* “Gehenna,” in turn, comes from the Hebrew to refer to the Valley of Hinnom. What’s the connection between the Valley of Hinnom and Gehenna and hell? Well, the Valley of Hinnom is a ravine right next to the city of Jerusalem. In the Old Testament, it was often the site where people of Judah sacrificed their children to Baal.¹ So a curse was pronounced upon that place. Thus, the Valley of Hinnom, Gehenna, came to be associated with the judgment that God places upon false worship and unbelief. That is the connection of Gehenna and hell.

Hell is a reality. All the wishful thinking in the world cannot whisk it away. The Bible speaks of and teaches God’s judgment and curse and wrath upon those who reject Him and rebel against Him - the Bible teaches this consistently from cover to cover. There’s no getting around it: Hell is for real.

Jesus speaks about the reality of hell, not only in our text today but also in other places in the gospels. For instance, in the judgment of the sheep and the goats, Jesus will say to those on His left, *“Go away from Me, cursed ones, into the everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels!”* And then it says: *“Then these will go away to everlasting punishment”* (Matt. 25:41, 46). Likewise, Jesus will talk about those who are cast out into the outer darkness, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.² In our text for today, Jesus speaks of those who go to hell as going **“where their worm does not die, and the fire is not put out.”**

What is the point of all this?

Hell is for real, and it’s a place you definitely do not want to go, and Jesus reinforces that point by making several comparisons. He says, **“If your hand causes you to sin,**

¹ 2 Kings 23:20; 2 Chron. 28:3,4; Jer. 7:31; 19:5, 6; 32:35

² Luke 13:28

cut it off! It is better for you to enter life maimed than to go into hell with two hands... If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off! It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷ If your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out! It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell.”

Imagine cutting off your hand. As bad as that would be, it would be better than going to hell. Imagine cutting off your foot. That would be better than being thrown into hell. And imagine plucking out your eye. That also would be better than being thrown into hell. It is better for you to enter life, to enter the kingdom of God, with one hand, one foot, and one eye, than to go to hell with both hands, both feet, and both eyes.

Hell is for real, and you don't want to go there. Or do you? You see, there are people in this world who don't want anything to do with God or with Jesus in this life. In the age to come, they will get their wish. They will be cut off from God forever. They will have no part in the life that is found only in Christ. Unbelievers, mockers, and rejecters - that is where they are headed. Straight to hell. Why? Because they reject the only way of salvation there is, namely, through Christ, and so, their sins remain on them. Christ has died for all the sins and all the sinners of the world, but if one rejects the one remedy that God provides, *nothing remains but fearful judgment.*

Now, God does not want people to go to hell. That is why Jesus came. But when people refuse the gift, their sins remain, as does God's judgment. The Bible says, in John 3: *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life. For God has not sent His Son into the world to condemn the world but that the world may be saved through Him. The person who believes in Him is not condemned, but the person who does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of God's only Son. . . . He who believes in the Son has eternal life, but he who does not believe in the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him”* (John 3:16-18, 36).

God *“desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”* (1 Timothy 2:4), and that truth is Jesus, who declares, *“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me”* (John 14:6). The Lord's wish is that no one should perish, but that all should repent. This is why Jesus warns us today about the danger of going to hell so that we would repent and turn to Him for forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life. With the Apostle Peter we ask, *“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the Words of eternal life”* (John 6:68).

Yes, there is something better in store for us today than going to hell. Something much better by far. This is a treasure more precious than all the gold in the world. This is a pearl of great price, worth more than anything we could imagine or desire.

It is the free gift of everlasting life in Christ. Nothing else can compare. It is better for us, so much better, that we would gladly suffer any loss to avoid losing this one thing needful.

What is in store for us, this gift that is so much better? It is the forgiveness of all our sins. Everything that would weigh us down and cut us off from God - all that burden is lifted, and we are brought near to God as His dear children. What is this better thing? It is the sure hope of the life to come, life everlasting, life that overcomes the grave. This is ours in Christ. We hold on to this hope, knowing it will carry us through all the hardships and grief and loss of this life. What is this gift? It is the resurrection of the body on the Last Day when Christ returns and restores all things. Glorified bodies in a renewed creation, life everlasting with our Lord and all His saints. Yes, this is our hope in Christ.

Finally, how is this so?

We know we do not deserve this. We have done nothing to earn it. Our sins afflict our consciences. How can we be sure we qualify? How can we know heaven belongs to us? The answer is ***not because of anything we do.*** Not by our

performance or goodness or our measuring up. No. It's because of what Jesus has already done for us. He died for us on the cross to take away our sins. Our sin and guilt are covered by the holy blood of Christ, God's own Son. He, the innocent one, suffered the agony of separation from God, abandonment by God, the wrath of God, there on that cross. He cried out, "*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*" That was Jesus experiencing what hell is like, that Gehenna, to be cut off from God. He took that forsakenness in our place, so that now you will not suffer it. "*It is finished!*" He cried, declaring His saving mission completed. Then Jesus descended into hell, into Hades, the domain of Satan, to declare His victory even there, and on the third day He rose from the dead, bodily, to show forth that the victory remained with life, and that this resurrection life is what is in store for all who trust in Him. This bestowal of life was sealed in baptism, and we taste of it in the Supper, a foretaste of the feast to come.

Dear friends, it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than to have all your members whole and be thrown into hell. Death is the enemy of life, the last enemy to be destroyed, and it will be destroyed, once and for all, when Christ returns and raises the dead.

Jesus gives this better gift to you today. He says: "*I am the Resurrection and the Life. The person who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will assuredly never die. Do you believe this?*" (John 11:25-26). And we answer with a hearty "Amen!" "Yes, yes, it shall be so!" Amen.

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

PRAYER FOR THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Lord God, You are eternally faithful and true to Your Word. You have kept every one of Your great and precious promises. Today we again come before Your throne of grace in gratitude for all Your goodness, in particular, for the gift of Jesus Christ Your Son, and for all the rich blessings we have received in Him. We thank You that He has accomplished our rebirth and salvation when it was humanly-speaking impossible. We thank You that in His life and being we see Your glory, that in the truth, goodness, and love He showed we see Your mercy and love, that in His obedience even to death on a cross we have forgiveness of sins, that in His resurrection from the grave we have the assurance of our own resurrection to life everlasting, and that in His ascension to heaven we have in Him One who brings before You all our needs.

Renew us day by day by Your Holy Spirit, that we may firmly believe in Jesus, love and serve Him, and show His saving power to others in all we think, do, or say. Free us from all love of earthly values, and strengthen our hope in Your promises. Make us more trusting in your mighty power and grace. Deepen our sympathy and love for all people, and remove every trace of selfishness. Keep us firm in Your truth to the end of our days. Enable us all to build one another up in common mind and purpose.

Heavenly Father, guard Your Church from false and disloyal preachers. Keep it obedient and faithful to all the teachings of Your Word. Enable us to acknowledge the work of Your Spirit through the Gospel wherever it is. Refresh us by Your Spirit, that we may remain in living fellowship with Jesus Christ, proclaim Your truth with living power, and minister to the needs of people around us with living compassion.

Give peace and harmony to the nations of the earth. Enable people everywhere to live without fear or want, and free them from all oppression, injustice and cruelty. Influence all in our land to live in uprightness, and overthrow all evil. Help those who set their minds on earthly pleasure and material prosperity to see that there is no lasting value in them. Protect us from spiritual decay, and strengthen those who warn us of moral danger. Save us from every danger within and without, and help us to live under Your continued favour and blessing.

Live in our homes, O Lord, and be the head of our families. Prove Yourself a helper in every time of need. Bless the weary, the sick, the troubled, and the sorrowful, that they may look to You as the unfailing source of all healing and hope.

All these things, and whatever else we should ask for, we bring before You in the name of Your only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who, together with You and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Article: Jesus is our holiness

Lots of people like to think to themselves words along the lines of “God is love.” They think, “Jesus is love, and because our Triune God is love, God would never hurt our sensitive little feelings by pointing out our sins or punishing us in the eternal fires of hell.” It’s unfortunate that that is the very kind of poison that gets sprayed from too many pulpits in the Christian church today.

As we draw closer to the end of time, we have continued to remake and recast our Lord as a snuggly old grandpa who can’t help but love us, an old softy who will ultimately forget about our sins and take us to heaven in the end, no matter what. But all of that is a lie dreamed up by the devil in order to dismiss and to try and justify our own sinfulness.

Now, please do not misunderstand; God *is* love, and He loves us with a perfect love, and it is because of His perfect love that He wants us to be with Him for all eternity, and at the same time it is because of that perfect love for us that Jesus sometimes spoke harsh words of warning. Love is patient and kind, but not at the expense of dismissing truth.

Indeed, it is the Lord’s heart of love speaking when He warns us, “*Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven*” (Matt. 5:20).

Ouch. If you listen and hear, those words cut like a knife. Righteousness is being right and perfect. To be righteous is to be able to stand on your own without any guilt - to have lived without ever violating any of God’s Ten Commandments.

These are harsh words from Jesus, especially when you consider the Pharisees themselves. For all appearances, they were a most righteous bunch. They prided themselves on how meticulously they were keeping and obeying God’s Law in every point - all Ten Commandments. But the truth is that even as perfect as they appeared, the Pharisees and scribes still weren’t righteous in God’s eyes. The reason is that they were trying to keep their own laws, not God’s Law, not His Ten Commandments.

The Pharisees thought they had found a sure fire way to keep God’s Law. They had come up with another 613 rules and regulations that, if followed, would keep them from violating any of the Ten Commandments. It was these 613 rules that they lived by and kept, and so, in their minds they were a most holy bunch.

Don’t be too hard on the poor Pharisees though. We all have something of a Pharisee inside of us. Our sinful nature - our old Adam - has a way of doing this as well. Our old Adam comes up with our own rules and regulations that justify and legitimise our own sinfulness because we are sinful and because our Old Adam loves to sin and likes to make rules that skirt around what God says. And if we can manage to live within the bounds of our own rules, then surely we think that God will have to be pleased with our efforts and forget about our failures.

You need only look at something like marriage in our own country to see how we love to do this. Marriage between same-sex persons is about finding a way to justify and legitimise sin; it is about how we as a culture are trying to quiet a guilty conscience. The

thought is that if our laws are OK with sin, then we are OK with sin, and then God will have to be OK with sin.

The harsh truth, though, is that we cannot live by our own rules and regulations or make up our own laws so that we can keep them and then be considered holy by keeping them. In fact, that would make things worse because if you manage to keep your own rules, then you will proceed to judge others by your own rules. Before long you are too self-righteous to stand with the other sinners, and you are left alone with a smug attitude thinking that you are better than everybody around you, and there is no one so alone as a Pharisee.

In the end there is only one law by which we are judged, it is God's Law - His Ten Commandments. And there is only one judgement that perfect Law has for us, and it is that we have all sinned and fall short of what God demands from us in His Law. And the penalty for our sin - breaking God's Law - is the death sentence of hell.

What this means is if you want to be righteous in God's sight and enter the kingdom of heaven, then do not try to do it by hiding behind the rules and regulations of mankind and the Old Adam. They are lies of devil, dreamed up by the devil to dismiss and to try and justify our own sinfulness.

But at the same time do not believe the myth that you can obtain righteousness in God's Law either. Because His Law is perfect, it is impossible for you and me to keep and to obey perfectly. God's Law is good, but we are sinful - we cannot follow God's Law constantly without error.

Trying to live and be holy by God's Law means that if you ever forget or neglect to read your Bible, you'll go to hell; if you ever get mad at someone, even for a second, the road to damnation is the only way for you; if you ever look at someone who is not your spouse with an eye toward using their body in a sexual way, or simply longing for them instead the one God has given you, then the fires of hell prepared for the devil and his fallen angels will unfortunately receive you too. I know that is harsh, but it is true. That is the way of the Law. The Law is absolute, unbending, and uncompromising. The Law does not allow for loopholes.

But the eternity of hell is not where we belong, and it is not where God desires for you and me to be. That is why Jesus speaks such harsh words, but He speaks them in love for us and for all people. It is because of His love that He warns you and me: "Unless your righteousness exceeds that of [what you see in] the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of heaven."

So where do we look for that exceeding righteousness? When we fall flat on our faces in failure before God's perfect and holy and good Law, where do we look? We look to the One who speaks the warning of love, to Jesus Himself. He is the only One who kept the Law in every way, the only One who is truly righteous in God's sight. So we look then to the One who said He has come to not abolish the Law but to fulfil all it - for you and for me.

The righteousness and holiness of Jesus is now yours by faith. He has given it to you freely as a gift. In Holy Baptism your Lord has clothed you with His perfect righteousness so that now you too are righteous before your Father in heaven, not because of how well you kept His Law, but because Jesus did it for you; Jesus' righteousness covers you.

By faith in Jesus, your righteousness far exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees - because Jesus exceeds the scribes and Pharisees, and by faith in Jesus, we sinners will enter the kingdom of heaven - because Jesus is our holiness.

Children's Message:

Have you ever had food that didn't have enough flavour? Maybe you've had hot chips that needed tomato sauce. Or a hot dog that needed mustard. Do you know of other ways to add flavour to your food?

How about salt? If something just isn't right, salt is perfect because it brings out the natural flavour of the food. It often makes something

bland taste much better. Maybe someone avoids a food if it isn't salty enough - but if you add just a little salt for flavour, it may be their favourite food!



God's Word has a little bit to say to us about saltiness, you know. In the Book of Mark, Jesus says, "*Salt is good. However, if salt loses its saltiness, how will you make it taste salty again? Have salt in yourselves and be at peace with one another!*" (9:50). Shaking salt onto your arms: Hmm. Have salt in yourselves. No problem! I hope this works!

Okay, I think God means something different here. His forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are what give us our saltiness, our wonderful flavour, not what's in a saltshaker. God seasons us with His Word. When we're in His Word, we're just salty enough to share the Gospel with others. When we receive God's forgiveness, we're ready to share the peace Jesus gives us with our neighbour. If we're angry, stirring up trouble, or holding a grudge, we're like salt that's lost its saltiness. But when we have Christ's love and forgiveness salting us, others won't be able to resist.

We have so many opportunities to receive God's gifts! Can you think of ways you get to hear God's Word? Every time we're in God's Word, He salts us a little more. We hear about how we have peace because of what Christ did for us on the cross and how we get to live as Christians because of that sacrifice. So now you get to be like a little saltshaker, sharing God's Word with others and pointing them to all those places they can hear His Word too! *Lord Jesus, through Your Word, You make us the salt of the earth. Please help us to share our peace with others. In your name we pray. Amen.*

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

6 October 20 Pentecost	13 October 21 Pentecost	20 October 22 Pentecost
9.00am OAK LR (note venue) 10.00am MARBURG HC (Harvest) AELC Service, Children's Sunday School Picnic	8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA HC Harvest 9.00am GRN LR 10.45am AUB HC Harvest 9.00am MARBURG LR	8.30am OAK HC Harvest 9.00am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.15am GRN HC Harvest 9.00am LOWOOD LR
Sunday, 6 October		
READINGS: Genesis 2:18-25; Hebrews 2:1-18; Mark 10:2-16 (Marburg) Deuteronomy 26:1-11; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 12:13-21		
HYMNS: 361 893 280 101 MARBURG: 563 814 566 85 285 437		
Sunday, 13 October		
READINGS: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Hebrews 3:12-19; Mark 10:17-22 (Tmba & Aub) Deuteronomy 26:1-11; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 12:13-21		
HYMNS: 345 359 178 556 TMB/AUB: 563 814 566 (53 293) 437		
Sunday, 20 October		
READINGS: Ecclesiastes 5:10-20; Hebrews 4:1-16; Mark 10:23-31 (Oak & Grn) Deuteronomy 26:1-11; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 12:13-21		
HYMNS: 502 372 377 426 OAK/GRN: 563 814 566 (53 293) 437		

AELC Service and Children's Picnic

Everyone is invited to the AELC service at Marburg next Sunday, followed by the Children's Sunday School picnic. Could each family please provide something for a shared lunch? A BBQ will also be running, with the loose offering for the day going towards the cost. As always, if you wish for your offering to return to your own congregation, please mark it in an envelope. Please come along if you can!

Tuesday, 8 October. 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Aubigny. Opening devotion: Grant.

Wednesday, 9 October. (PLEASE NOTE THE DATE). Women's Guild at Bethlehem Toowoomba. Opening devotion: *Nola*. Choose a Bible verse from Deuteronomy 4-7. Item of Interest: *Something silver*.

Saturday, 12 October, 1pm. Fellowship afternoon at Bethlehem Toowoomba. All are welcome to attend. Please bring a shared afternoon tea.

Saturday, 12 October, 7pm, YAY (Young Adults and Youth) is on at Aubigny. The hall will be open for games and socialising from 6:30pm. All young adults and youth are most welcome to attend an evening of fun, food and a devotion. Please remember to bring your Bible and something for supper.

OCTOBER Bible Study dates:

Sunday, 13 October, 8.00am Toowoomba. Wednesday, 16 October, 7.30pm Greenwood. Thursday, 17 October, 10.00am Lowood. Friday, 25 October, 7.30pm Oak/Aub at Aubigny.