

## THE INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### HYMN 902

1	3
Lord Jesus Christ, be present now	the shall we join the hosts that cry,
Our hearts in true devotion bow.	"O holy, holy Lord Most High!"
Your Spirit send with light divine,	And in the light of that blest place
And let Your truth within us shine.	We then shall see You face to face.
2	4
Unseal our lips to sing Your praise	All glory to God, the Father, Son,
In endless hymns through all our days.	And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
Increase our faith and light our minds;	To You, O blessed Trinity,
And set us free from doubt that blinds.	Be praise throughout eternity!

## THE CONFESSION

Dear friends in Christ: Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins, and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.	<b>He made heaven and earth.</b>
I said, I will confess my sins to the Lord.	<b>Then He forgave the guilt of my sin.</b>

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we confess to You that by nature we are sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy and plead for Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Most merciful God, You have given Your only Son to die for us: Have mercy on us, and for His sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins. By Your Holy Spirit increase our knowledge of You and Your will, and make us obedient to Your Word, so that by Your grace we may come to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He has given the right to become the children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.

**THE INTROIT**                  Psalm 66:1-7

Shout loudly to God, all the earth!

Sing the glory of His name; make His praise glorious!

Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds! Because of Your great power, Your enemies will feign submission to You.

All the earth will worship You and sing praise to You; they will sing praise to Your name."

Come and see some of what God has done; He is awesome in what He has done for the descendants of Adam.

He turned the sea into dry land. They crossed the river on foot. There let us rejoice in Him.

He rules by His power for ever; His eyes observe the nations; let the rebellious not be haughty.

**THE GLORY TO THE FATHER**

**Glory to the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and will be for evermore. Amen.**

**THE LORD HAVE MERCY**

**Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

**THE GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST**

Glory to God in the highest.

And on earth peace, among men with whom He is pleased. We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory, O Lord God, heavenly king, God, the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer. You are seated at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us. For You alone are holy, You alone are Lord, You alone, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**THE COLLECT**

The Lord be with you.                  And also with you.

**Almighty God, You have built Your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone.**

**Continue to send Your messengers to preserve Your people in true peace, that, by the preaching of Your Word, Your Church may be kept free from all harm and danger; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for**

**ever. Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

The First Reading is written in chapter \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_, beginning at verse \_\_\_\_.

**Isaiah 66:10-14**

<sup>10</sup> All you who love Jerusalem, rejoice with her and be glad for her! All you who are in mourning over her, rejoice greatly with her, <sup>11</sup> that you may suckle and drink your fill from her consoling breast, that you may drink deeply and refresh yourselves from her full nipples! <sup>12</sup> For this is what the LORD has said: “Look! I am extending peace to her like a river and the splendour of the nations like an overflowing stream.

You will suckle, you will be carried at her side and be bounced on her knees. <sup>13</sup> I shall comfort you as a mother comforts her child. You will be comforted in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> **Your hearts will rejoice** when you see this. Your bones will flourish like young grass.”

The hand of the LORD will be made known to His servants, but He will express His wrath against His enemies.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING

The Second Reading is written in chapter \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_, beginning at verse \_\_\_\_.

**Galatians 6:1-10, 14-18**

<sup>1</sup> My fellow-Christians, if a person is overtaken in some sin, you who are spiritual should set such a person right again in a gentle spirit! However, watch yourself, that you also may not be tempted! <sup>2</sup> Carry each other's burdens, and so you will fulfil the Law of Christ! <sup>3</sup> For, if anyone thinks that he is something when he is nothing, he is deceiving himself. <sup>4</sup> Let each one test his own work! Then he will have something to boast about concerning himself alone and not concerning somebody else. <sup>5</sup> For everyone will carry his own load.

<sup>6</sup> The person who is instructed in the Word should share all good things with his instructor. <sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived! God is not mocked. For a person will harvest whatever he sows. <sup>8</sup> For the one who sows to his own sinful nature will from his sinful nature harvest destruction, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit harvest everlasting life. <sup>9</sup> Let us not become tired of doing good! For we shall harvest, each in his own appointed time, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of faith! ...

<sup>14</sup> May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world! <sup>15</sup> For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but what matters is a new creation. <sup>16</sup> May **peace** and mercy also be **on** all those who follow this rule, namely, on the **Israel** of God! <sup>17</sup> From now on, let no one make trouble for me! For I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. <sup>18</sup> May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, my fellow-Christians! Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

#### THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel is written in the \_\_\_\_ chapter of the Gospel according to \_\_\_\_, beginning at verse \_\_\_\_.

**Glory be to You, O Lord.**

#### **Luke 10:1-20**

<sup>1</sup> After this the Lord appointed seventy-two other men and sent them out in pairs to go ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was intending to go. <sup>2</sup> He told them, “The harvest is great, but the labourers are few. Therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest! <sup>3</sup> Go! Look! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. <sup>4</sup> Do not carry a purse or a bag or sandals and do not greet anyone on the road! <sup>5</sup> Whenever you go into a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ <sup>6</sup> If a man of peace is there, let your peace rest on him, but, if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Stay in the same house and eat and drink what they give! For a worker is worthy of his wages. Do not move around from one house to another! <sup>8</sup> Whenever you go into a city and the people welcome you, eat what is set before you! <sup>9</sup> Heal the sick that are in it and tell the people, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you’! <sup>10</sup> However, whenever you go into a city and they do not welcome you, go out on its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> ‘We are wiping off against you even the dust of your city that has clung to our feet! Nevertheless, realise this: The kingdom of God has come near you’! <sup>12</sup> I tell you, on that day it will be more bearable for Sodom than for that city. <sup>13</sup> How terrible for you, Chorazin! How terrible for you, Bethsaida! For, if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>14</sup> However, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. <sup>15</sup> As for you, Capernaum, you will not be **lifted up to heaven**, will you? **You will go down to Hades.** <sup>16</sup> The person who hears you hears Me, and the person who rejects you rejects Me. The person who rejects Me rejects the One who has sent Me.”

<sup>17</sup> The seventy-two men returned with joy. They said, “Lord, even the demons do what we tell them in Your name.”

<sup>18</sup> He replied to them, “I was watching Satan falling like lightning from heaven.

<sup>19</sup> Look! I have given you the authority to **trample on snakes** and scorpions and on all the power of the enemy, and nothing at all will harm you. <sup>20</sup> However, do not rejoice because the spirits are subordinate to you! Rather, rejoice that your names have been written in heaven!”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.      **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

#### THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### HYMN 508

##### THE DAY IS SURELY DRAWING NEAR      508

1  
The day is surely drawing near,  
When Jesus, God's anointed,  
In all His power shall appear  
As judge whom God appointed.  
Then fright shall banish idle mirth,  
And flames on flames shall ravage earth  
As Scripture long has warned us

3  
The books are opened then to all,  
A record truly telling  
What each has done, both great and small,  
When he on earth was dwelling;  
And every heart be clearly seen,  
And all be known as they have been  
In thoughts and words and actions.

2  
A final trumpet then shall sound  
And all the earth be shaken,  
And all who rest beneath the ground  
Shall from their sleep awaken.  
But all that live will in that hour,  
By God's almighty, boundless pow'r,  
Be changed at His commanding.

4  
Then woe to those who scorned the Lord  
And sought but carnal pleasures,  
Who here despised His precious Word  
And loved their earthly treasures!  
With shame and trembling they will stand  
And at the judge's stern command  
To Satan be delivered.

5

My Saviour paid the debt I owe  
And for my sin was smitten;  
Within the Book of Life I know  
My name has now been written.  
I will not doubt, for I am free,  
And Satan cannot threaten me;  
There is no condemnation!

6

May Christ our intercessor be,  
And through Thy blood and merit  
Read from His book that we are free  
With all who life inherit.  
Then we shall see Him face to face,  
With all His saints in that blest place  
Which He has purchased for us.

7

O Jesus Christ, do not delay,  
But hasten our salvation;  
We often tremble on our way  
In fear and tribulation;  
O hear and grant our fervent plea:  
Come, mighty judge, and set us free  
From death and ev'ry evil.

**THE WAR HAS ALREADY BEEN WON**  
**Sermon for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, 2025**  
**Luke 10:1-20**

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 read before, Luke 10:1-20

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

Dear friends in Christ,

The AELC has rightly said in the past that we seek to be a mission-minded church. With the Apostle Paul, we, too, have the desire to tell others of “*Christ crucified*” (1 Cor. 1:23). The sole mission of the church is to join with John the Baptist, pointing people to Christ, and saying, “*Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*” (John 1:29).

Today, from Luke’s Gospel, we see the *urgency* with which Jesus Himself continues this message. Previously, Jesus had sent out the twelve, and now today He broadens His gospel outreach by sending out another seventy-two workers to proclaim the message, “**The kingdom of God has come near.**”

The Saviour of mankind has arrived—the One whom not only John the Baptist, but all the prophets of the Old Testament had pointed to. Unfortunately, as you read through the Old Testament Scriptures, a common theme emerges: those privileged to hear about the coming Saviour often rejected the message of His prophets. Now today, even as Jesus Himself has arrived, people still reject Him. This is no surprise. Remember from last Sunday’s Gospel how we discussed that we can sometimes hesitate to listen to the Lord when He asks us to “*Follow Him*,” and today, as difficult as it is to admit, we often *reject God’s will for our lives*. Nevertheless, it is truly encouraging to see that Jesus does not give up, but continues to reach out with compassion through the Gospel ministry He established.

As Jesus made His way to Jerusalem, it became increasingly evident that a vast number of people were prospects for the kingdom of God. Samaria was an entirely *new* mission field. There, Jesus saw a world full of lost, confused, and troubled souls, weighed down by their sins and shortcomings. Instead of condemning them, He recognised an opportunity. Jesus saw a harvest of souls ripe to be saved for the kingdom of God, a harvest that needed to happen *now*. So Jesus turns to His followers and says: “**The harvest is great, but the labourers are few. Therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest!**”

Harvesting for the kingdom of God would be a huge task, and there were few workers available to proclaim God’s message. Jesus compares it to harvesting ripe grain. No matter how great the harvest, the crop will be small *if there are few workers*.

Furthermore, to be a harvester for God’s kingdom was difficult work. Jesus had earlier laid strict demands on those who would follow.<sup>1</sup> Proclaiming the kingdom of God called for dedication and commitment that, unfortunately, too few people had. Yet there were some ready for this task of harvesting. The Lord “**appointed seventy-two other men and sent them out in pairs to go ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was intending to go.**” These appointees were in addition to the apostles. The work of harvesting was not limited to just the Twelve because it was too big a job.

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<sup>1</sup> Luke 9:57-62

These words must surely serve as an important reminder to us all that the work of the church, especially the task of sharing the Good News, is the responsibility of every Christian. After all, surely with God, we all desire that more people come to know the truth and be saved.<sup>2</sup> This is what we pray in the Lord's Prayer: we ask for His kingdom to come and His will to be done. This prayer is partly fulfilled *when people hear the Gospel message and believe in Jesus as their Saviour*.

I am sure that we all know someone who isn't yet a believer, and we hope and pray that the Holy Spirit will work in that person to soften his hardened heart and lead him to receive the Lord. Perhaps we pray that, with God's help, *someone* one day will be able to change that person. That is commendable, but why someone else? Don't *you* have the opportunity and responsibility to do exactly what you're praying for? When you pray for such people, and the Lord hears your prayer, He responds with the words, **"Go! Look! I am sending you."** *"I have given you a voice, use it!"*

But you know what happens. We make excuses. *"But Lord, I'm no good at such things. I don't know what to say. I don't really know the Scriptures that well and am worried that I'd get things mixed up and make a fool of myself, making matters worse."* But such excuses are only smokescreens for what we are thinking, which is, *"I'm scared that I'll be rejected and humiliated. If I say something, they'll probably think I am some kind of religious nutcase."*

That is a real possibility, perhaps even a probability. When you share Christ with the world, you can expect to be treated as such. Remember, we live in a world that is increasingly hostile to Christ, and so we would prefer to pray *about it* safely rather than serve the Lord by *doing so*, and I guess it doesn't help our confidence when Jesus warns us, **"I am sending you out like lambs among wolves."**

**"Lambs among wolves"** doesn't sound very comforting. Being a lamb among a pack of wolves is not something anyone would want to go through. That's probably why, while we desire more people to be saved, we often hope it will be someone else who preaches the Good News *so we don't get hurt*. We all want to live peacefully with one another, and so, we tend to avoid sharing the Good News because it could bring hostility. So, when we pray to the Lord, asking Him to send workers, and He replies, *"Okay, you get busy,"* but then adds, *"You're about to be attacked,"* what kind of answer can we give to the Lord for His command to **"Go!"**

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<sup>2</sup> 1 Timothy 2:4

If we desire to listen to the Lord's command, are willing to speak up, and accept what often happens when speaking the Lord's Word in a hostile world, can we still find a bit of peace and quiet to make our task a little easier? Yes, we can. Let me ask you, *"Where does genuine peace and quiet come from?"*

Well, consider what it truly means to be **"lambs among wolves."** Left entirely to themselves, what can lambs do if wolves surround them? Absolutely nothing. They can't run or defend themselves, and so remain frightened and probably ready to die a horrible death unless they can find a place out of reach of the wolves, a safe and secure spot... like, say, *in the arms of a shepherd*, who carries a big stick that the wolves know will be used against them if they get too close. That's the key, and that is what we confess in Psalm 23: *"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."* And then it goes on to say, *"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil."* Why not? *"For You are with me. Your rod and staff comfort me."*

That is to say, a lamb finds its peace and quietness not in external circumstances—they're dark and threatening. No, a lamb looks to its Shepherd and knows, *"As long as I'm close to Him, no harm can come to me."* In fact, the worse the threats are, the closer the lamb will stay to the Shepherd, and that's the point of the answer to our prayer. By sending us out as **"lambs among wolves,"** *Christ compels us to stay close to Him, where nothing can harm us.*

How do we do that? How do we stay close to Christ?

Jesus says, **"The person who hears you hears Me."** This is not a figure of speech. John begins his Gospel with these words: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"* (John 1:1). Jesus is God in the flesh. So when you speak Christ's Word to someone, you are actually conveying Christ to them. Keeping this in mind and knowing that in times of trouble and fear we shall want to get closer to the Shepherd, it's clear that the way to do this is to get deeper in His Word. The Apostle Peter encourages us to be like newborn babies who *"long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation"* (1 Peter 2:2). We shall want to hear, study, and memorise the Word of God. In so doing, we come to know more completely how faithful, loving, and caring our Good Shepherd is, and how we, the lambs, are safely carried in the Shepherd's arms. Once we realise all this, and see the growling and snapping jaws of the wolves around us, we'll see that the dangers we face *actually push us towards the Shepherd and His Word.*

However, let's consider a more personal situation. What about you? Take a moment to reflect on how good and easy your life has been. Sure, we have all faced problems, and continue to do so today, but do any of us truly understand what actual persecution is? Has any of us here today truly experienced complete and utter despair, or many other troubling things, that have caused us to drift away from the Shepherd and His Word? Do you live your life according to the Word of God or the way of this world? What's easier: living God's way or the world's way? It's so sad and utterly unnecessary when many lambs are caught and killed *before they even realise any threat*.

Dear friends, today, we have been discussing how to share the Gospel of Christ with others in complete peace and security, *despite the daily threats and dangers we face*. When we are with Christ and safe in His saving Word, nothing out there can cause us lasting harm. That's why Jesus told the seventy-two, **“Do not carry a purse, or a bag, or sandals, and do not greet anyone on the road!”** The point was that He Himself would take care of all their needs. They were to rely solely on Him, not the world.

And Jesus did warn them that there would be victories and losses. **“Whenever you go into a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ <sup>6</sup> If a man of peace is there, let your peace rest on him; but, if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Stay in the same house and eat and drink what they give! For a worker is worthy of his wages. Do not move around from one house to another! <sup>8</sup> Whenever you go into a city and the people welcome you, eat what is set before you! <sup>9</sup> Heal the sick that are in it, and tell the people, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you’! <sup>10</sup> However, whenever you go into a city and they do not welcome you, go out on its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> ‘We are wiping off against you even the dust of your city that has clung to our feet! Nevertheless, realise this: The kingdom of God has come near you’!”**

Some would receive their message with joy, others would not. And since the message was Christ and His kingdom of grace, it was Christ and the kingdom that they received. Upon such people, the peace of God would remain—the peace of knowing that for Christ's sake sins are forgiven and that eternal life is assured. Others, however, would reject their message. They would not receive God's peace in Christ, but they were to be told nevertheless that God's kingdom was at hand: a message of comfort to those who enter inside, a message of warning to those who stubbornly persist to remain outside of it.

Our passage concludes today with, **“the seventy-two men returned with joy. They said, “Lord, even the demons do what we tell them in Your name.”**

The seventy-two were absolutely thrilled over what they had accomplished, or to be more precise, *what Christ had accomplished through them*. “**He replied to them, “I was watching Satan falling like lightning from heaven.”** Indeed, we can be sure that Satan is handed a defeat every time a sinner comes to repentance and to faith in Jesus, who suffered, died, and rose to give salvation and life to men. That’s where the real victory is: on the cross. And that’s why Jesus told the seventy-two not to rejoice over their individual battles with the forces of evil, but rather to rejoice that their names “**have been written in heaven.**”

With the battles, there would be wins and losses that could lead to discouragement. So what Jesus told them to focus on was the fact that in Him *the war has already been won*.

That victory is what gives us joy, peace, and quietness of heart as we, too, head out as lambs among wolves to share the Gospel with those around us. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send workers into His field, workers faithful and true, and each of us among them, and count it a joy that we’ve been privileged to share in this task of bringing the peace of Christ to the world. And above all, rejoice that because of Him and what He achieved for us on the cross, our names “**have been written in heaven.**” To Him be all praise and glory forever. Amen.

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

#### HYMN 533

### **JESUS HAS COME AND BRINGS PLEASURE ETERNAL 533**

1

Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal  
Alpha and Omega, Beginning and End;  
Godhead, humanity, union supernal,  
O great Redeemer, You come as our friend!  
Heaven and earth, now proclaim this great wonder:  
Jesus has come, and brings pleasure eternal!

2

Jesus has come! Now see bonds rent asunder!  
Fetters of death now dissolve, disappear.  
See Him burst through with a voice as of thunder!  
He sets us free from our guilt and our fear,  
Lifts us from shame to the place of His honour.  
Jesus has come! Hear the roll of god’s thunder!

3

Jesus has come as the mighty Redeemer,  
See now the threatening strong one disarmed!  
Jesus breaks down all the walls of death's fortress,  
Brings forth the pris'ners triumphant, unharmed.  
Satan, you wicked one, own now your master!  
Jesus has come! He, the mighty Redeemer!

4

Jesus has come as the King of all glory!  
Heaven and earth, O declare His great pow'r,  
Capturing hearts with the heavenly story;  
Welcome Him now in this fast-fleeting hour!  
Ponder His love! Take the crown He has for you!

#### THE OFFERTORY

**What can I offer to the Lord: for all His goodness to me?**  
**I will lift up the cup of salvation: and call on the name of the Lord.**  
**I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving: and call on the name of the Lord.**  
**I will keep my promises to the Lord: in the presence of all His people;**  
**In the courts of the house of the Lord: in your midst, O Jerusalem.**

#### PRAYER FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Lord our God, You are our strength and our joy, for everything You do is marked by kindness and love. Because You are gracious, we trust in You and offer You our prayers.

We thank and praise You for all Your kindness to us: for blessing us with life, for equipping us with all our powers of body and soul, for giving us the ability to be useful, for permitting us to enjoy Your creation, and for surrounding us with the warmth of human relationships in every facet of life.

We confess our sins before You, repent of them, and earnestly turn from them. Do not look on us in anger, for Jesus' sake. We praise You above all else for Your grace in Christ Jesus. You have sent Your Son to die on the cross, and have raised Him in power and glory, to provide all the riches of our salvation. In Him You have given us free pardon for all our sins, the strength to overcome evil, and the sure hope of eternal life.

We rejoice in the death of Your Son, through which you have been reconciled to us, so that we may approach You as a God of love. Comfort us with Your free forgiveness, and fill us with the new life of the Spirit. Help us to be alert and to stand firm in faith in every temptation and test, so that we may resist Satan and His evil tricks, and hold our ground against all evil.

Be gracious to Your Church, O God, that it may seek the lost, lift up the fallen, comfort the broken-hearted, and heal the afflicted. Enable Your pastor and people to proclaim with courage and conviction the message of life in Christ Jesus, and to declare to all people Your mighty acts of judgment and mercy. Cause growth among us, through Your powerful Word. Continue to pour out on our student Matthew, Your Holy Spirit that He may grow in His faith and become a blessed spokesman for You.

Reveal Your power to all lands and nations. Remind people everywhere that You are the Lord of all history, that You judge the leaders of the nations, and that You have the power to break bows, shatter spears, and destroy all human might. Grant that all people may turn to You and follow Your truth.

Be the heavenly guest in all our homes. Move all families to trust You in everything, and to love and serve each other, until that day comes when You call us from our homes on earth to live with You in our heavenly home for ever.

Bless all who are in any need of body or soul. Teach them to humble themselves under Your mighty hand, trusting that You remove all burdens in Your own good time. Teach them to place all their worries on You, and assure them of Your infinite understanding and loving care.

Gracious God, since You have called us to share eternal glory in Christ, make us strong, and make our lives holy. Hear our prayers for the sake of Jesus, to whom be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

#### LORD'S PRAYER:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### THE BLESSING

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favour, and give us peace. **Amen.**

## HYMN 895

### NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD 895

<p>1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices, Who wondrous things has done, In whom His world rejoices; Who from our mothers' arms Has blessed us on our way With countless gifts of love And still is ours today.</p>	<p>2 Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us, With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us And keep us in His grace, And guide us when perplexed, And free us from all ills In this world and the next!</p>
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3  
All praise and thanks to God  
The Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him who reigns  
With them in highest heaven:  
The one eternal God,  
Whom earth and heav'n adore,  
For thus it was, is now,  
And shall be evermore.

### SERVICE TIMES

13 July 5 Pentecost	20 July 6 Pentecost	27 July 7 Pentecost
8.30am OAK LR MS 9.00am TMBA HC 9.30am GRN LR 10.45am AUB HC 9.00am MARBURG LR	8.30am OAK HC 9.00am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.15am GRN HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR MS	8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA LR 9.30am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD HC

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, 8 July, 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Oakey. Opening devotion: Jeff.

The next Fellowship afternoon will be held on Saturday, 12 July, 1 pm, at Nola's home. All are welcome to attend. Please bring something for a shared afternoon tea.

Next Sunday, Trinity Oakey members, Matthew will begin taking you through the alternative liturgies in the LSB after worship.

## BIBLE STUDIES FOR JULY

Marburg: Sunday, 6 July after service.

Toowoomba: Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>, 8.00am. We shall resume our study on Amos.

Lowood: Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>, 10.00am.

Greenwood: Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7.30pm.

Oak/Aub: Friday 25<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm at Aubigny.

The AELC now has an Official Facebook and Instagram Page. These pages post service times and events happening within the parish. The handles for these pages are [aelc.org.au](http://aelc.org.au) which is the same as the AELC website itself. The links to these pages are: [facebook.com/aelc.org.au](https://facebook.com/aelc.org.au) and [instagram.com/aelc.org.au](https://instagram.com/aelc.org.au)

\* From July, our hymns will be coming from the LSB, so bring your LSB to worship (on occasion, we shall still use a hymn or two from the Lutheran Hymn Book). Printed copies of the hymns will be available for those who do not have an LSB. Pastor has copies available for anyone who wants one. They are \$70.00.