

**THE AUSTRALIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (AELC)**  
**BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA, OUR SAVIOURS LOWOOD, ST JOHNS AUBIGNY,**  
**ST PAULS GREENWOOD, TRINITY MARBURG, TRINITY OAKEY**

**4 January 2026**

**Second Sunday after Christmas**

**A warm welcome to all those who are worshipping with us today!**

*Only twelve years old, Jesus, the boy in the temple, is already full of the wisdom of God. As Solomon prayed for wisdom as God's greatest gift, today we are given a glimpse into God's wisdom. His wisdom is the greatest and highest wisdom: that a person is not and cannot be saved by his own works or actions but solely by faith in the gift of Jesus Christ. We become God's children and His own family by God's action of adopting us.*

**In preparation of worship, please prepare by**

- **Praying one of the prayers before worship found on page 308 in your LSB hymnbook**

**Hymns (LSB): 696 410 392 427 636 399**

**Verse of the Day**

Alleluia. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favour of God was upon him. Alleluia.

Luke 2:40

*Stand*

**Invocation**

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

**C** Amen.

*Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

*Sit*

**Hymn 696**

*Stand*

**Confession of Sins and Absolution**

*LSB 184-185*

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

*[Hebrews 10:22]*

*Sit/kneel*

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

*Psalms 124:8*

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the guilt of my sin.

*Psalm 32:5*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

**Introit: Psalm 119:97–104**

<sup>97</sup>Oh how I love your law!

It is my meditation all the day.

<sup>98</sup>Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,  
for it is ever with me.

<sup>99</sup>I have more understanding than all my teachers,  
for your testimonies are my meditation.

<sup>100</sup>I understand more than the aged,  
for I keep your precepts.

<sup>101</sup>I hold back my feet from every evil way,  
in order to keep your word.

<sup>102</sup>I do not turn aside from your just decrees,  
for you have taught me.

<sup>103</sup>How sweet are your words to my taste,  
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

<sup>104</sup>Through your precepts I get understanding;  
therefore I hate every false way.

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

## The Gradual

Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

**P** *To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given;  
and the government shall be upon His shoulder.  
And His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for He has done marvellous things!*

## The Lord Have Mercy (Kyrie)

Mark 10:47



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



# Gloria in Excelsis

**P** Glory be to God on high

*Luke 2:14; John 1:29*

*LSB SETTING 4, 204*



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

# Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*



**C** And with your spir - it.

**P** Let us pray:

## The Collect

**Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Sit*

## The First Reading: 1 Kings 3:4–15

<sup>4</sup> The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. <sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.”

<sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. <sup>7</sup>And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. <sup>13</sup>I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honour, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. <sup>14</sup>And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

<sup>15</sup>And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## The Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3–14

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup>which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

<sup>11</sup>In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup>so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

### Alleluia



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Luke, chapter 2, verse 40-52.



**C** Glo - ry be to You, O Lord.

<sup>40</sup>The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favour of God was upon him.

<sup>41</sup>Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup>And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup>but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup>and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." <sup>49</sup>And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup>And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise be to You, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

**and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.  
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and  
glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Christian:* the ancient text reads “catholic,” meaning the whole Church as it confesses the wholeness of Christian doctrine.

*Sit*

**Hymn 410**

**GOD LOVES YOU DEARLY AND HAS LOVED YOU FROM ALL ETERNITY!  
Sermon for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas, 2026  
Ephesians 1:3-14**

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 Second Reading read before, Ephesians 1:3-14:  
Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us through Your truth, Your Word is truth. Amen.  
Dear friends in Christ,

Have you ever stopped to think just how much God loves you? Do you recall the words from Jeremiah 31? “*I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you*” (31:3). “*I have loved you with an everlasting love.*”

That's precious. In eternity, God has chosen you, freely and for no other reason *than His love for you*. People can be loveless, but God is love (1 John 4:8).

Such powerful love *defies explanation*. It chooses and makes its own the object of its choice so that no force in heaven or on earth can empty that choice of its power. "*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?*" Paul asks (Romans 8:35), and then answers, "*I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> 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*" 8:38). Here is the certainty upon which our salvation, our life, and our hope rest.

Friends, I want you to know that *God loves each one of you dearly*. The Father loves you so much that He sent His only-begotten Son, born of the Virgin Mary, to be your Saviour. That's what the Christmas Season is all about — reminding us of that. Jesus loves you so much that He willingly shed His blood for you so that your sins may be paid for and you would receive forgiveness of those sins and life eternal through faith in Him. The Holy Spirit loves you so much that He comes to you and works through the waters of Baptism and the Word of God to change you from an enemy of God into a lover and disciple of the only God, the Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, St. Paul wrote the words of our sermon text this morning, to assure hearts that may be troubled and to show the extraordinary wisdom and grace of our God. Through these words, Paul teaches us that God loves us dearly and has loved us from all eternity!

He begins with the words, "**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love <sup>5</sup> He predestined us for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will.**"

Consider how dearly we are loved by God. St. Paul tells us that the heavenly Father "**has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.**"

Luther's Small Catechism reminds us of all the blessings God gives. In the explanation of the First Article of the Apostle's Creed, Luther writes, "*I believe that God has made me and all creatures.*" Then he lists some blessings we receive. God has given us our "*body and soul, eyes, ears, all my members, my reason and strength. He gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, a house and home, a wife and children, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil...*"

All these blessings are wonderful, but the greatest blessing we have received is that God has loved us so much that He sent His only-begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him as their Saviour will receive eternal life. Eternal life — what a blessing! We all picture in our minds what eternal life must be like, but let me tell you that what you picture in your mind *does not even come close to what eternal life is like.* Our feeble minds cannot comprehend what awaits us in eternity.

That day hasn't arrived for us yet, and so, as we await, we must understand that we all need forgiveness for our sins because, daily, we sin much and live in open rebellion toward God. Think about it: are there any among you today who can truly say that you have never thought an unkind thing, never said an unkind word, and have always acted in ways that were pleasing to God? Do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?<sup>1</sup> Do you grumble and complain without taking the time to understand other people's thinking? Even in this season of Christmas, we struggle with selfishness. We are much more willing to be the recipients of gifts than to be the givers. Our *tempers* are expressed more than we like when holiday guests disrupt our routines or when celebration situations stress us out. In short, our sinful self is always ready to show itself in our actions, thoughts, and words. The awful reality is that we all have fallen short of the glory of God and earn with our sins the wages of death.

And the death that I'm talking about is not only physical but, more importantly, also eternal. Every one of us must confess that we have not obeyed the commandments of God perfectly and stand in need of forgiveness. We all must understand that we cannot earn our way to heaven. We simply cannot do enough good works to cover over our many sins. In fact, if we try to earn our salvation by way of God's Law, we must obey it perfectly, and not one of us has done that. What are we to do? Who will save us?

The joyous message from Paul today is that God, before the creation of the world, before *our* creation, carefully considered how to save us, and He determined that we would be saved in His Son, Jesus Christ. Paul writes that in Jesus “**we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace,** <sup>8</sup>**which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight** <sup>9</sup>**making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ** <sup>10</sup>**as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth.”**

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew 7:3.

Paul uses *two terms* that differ as to the picture underlying them, yet are virtually interchangeable in meaning: “**redemption**” and “**forgiveness.**” Redemption implies that someone is a slave or captive and *needs to be ransomed*. Forgiveness implies that someone has acted improperly toward another and, in so doing, *has incurred guilt that needs to be covered over or taken away*.

Both require a heavy price. The sinner has offended God Himself; the price is—or at least should be—the sinner’s life. “*The wages of sin is death*” (Romans 6:23). But “**according to the riches of His grace, <sup>8</sup> which He lavished upon us,**” the unthinkable has occurred: God Himself paid the price. He has sent His Son to be our Substitute, to suffer and die in our place. Through His blood, we have been rescued from the captivity of sin and freed from its guilt.

There is no way we would have devised such a plan. Instead, God has created it “**according to the riches of His grace, <sup>8</sup> which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight.**”

Not only would we not have thought up a plan like this, but we would never have grasped or understood it if God had not made “**known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ.**” The “mystery” of God’s will is almost synonymous with God’s plan of salvation, that is, *His will to save sinners*. God’s plan is not mysterious in the sense that it mystifies people or is incomprehensible to them. It is a mystery only in the sense that people cannot understand it on their own. God has to explain it to them and lead them to know it and accept it. And that he does, of course, in the Gospel that proclaims His grace in Christ. We are indeed children of the heavenly Father. We are heirs of God’s kingdom!

And please note that this is not simply a general proclamation of God’s grace, but *also a personal one*. God loves *you*. He calls *you* by name. His plan of salvation is for *you* personally, even as it is for all the elect of God. Rejoice in how dearly God loves you!

Jesus, who is God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, loves you so dearly that He humbled Himself and willingly became a man. He was born of the Virgin Mary. Thus, Jesus was born *without* sin. As a man, Jesus lived perfectly under the Law of God so that He might obey it, as you and I have not. Jesus loves you and me so dearly that He willingly shouldered our sins, in fact, the sins of the whole lot of mankind and carried them to the cross of Calvary. Upon the cross, in obedience to the Law of God, *Jesus died*. God says that the wages of sin are death, and the soul that sins shall surely die.

To fulfil the Law of God, Jesus allowed Himself to be hung on that cross. Jesus died on the cross so that He might redeem us with His blood shed and His body broken. Jesus once and for all time paid the price of your sins, my sins, and the whole of mankind's sins. Jesus didn't remain in the grave but rose again on the third day victorious over sin, Satan, and death. He thereby assures us that all has been completed on behalf of our salvation. Paul reminds us that this plan of salvation was in place even **“before the foundation of the world.”**

Jesus and the Father send the Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, to work through the Word and Sacraments to call unbelievers into true faith and to sustain them in it. God desires that all people be brought into saving faith. We know this is His will from so many passages that point it out. For example: *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life”* (John 3:16). *“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people”* (Titus 2:11). *“This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”* (1 Tim. 2:3–4). And, *“He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world”* (1 John 2:2).

Furthermore, St. Paul reminds us that not only has the Holy Spirit called each of us to faith, *but His presence in our hearts serves yet another purpose.*

Having **“heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and (believing) in Him,”** Paul says, you **“were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.”** We bear a seal, having the Holy Spirit in our hearts. In ancient times, a seal was the sign of ownership. For us to bear the seal of the Holy Spirit indicates that we belong to God. That is a present blessing granted at our baptism.

But Paul points to yet another blessing coming from the Spirit's presence in our hearts by faith. We have assurance for the future. The apostle describes the Spirit as **“the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory.”**

The fact that God has given His Holy Spirit into our hearts by faith at the present time *is an assurance that the rest of God's promise will also be forthcoming.* He guarantees that He'll hold our inheritance in heaven for us **“until we acquire possession of it.”** A parallel passage that speaks of the Holy Spirit, both as a seal indicating God's present ownership of the believer and as the guarantee of future blessings with God in heaven is written in 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, where Paul writes, *“And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put His seal on us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”*

Dear friends, when we realise we have fallen and sinned against God’s holy will, the same Holy Spirit enables us to repent of our sin and to strive once again to walk in accordance with God’s will. See how much God loves us dearly! He doesn’t leave us without a guarantee of our salvation. The Holy Spirit is the guarantor of our eternal inheritance. He is the one who leads us to true faith and enables us to receive the wonderful blessings of God, blessings which God determined to give us **“before the foundation of the world.”**

Dear Christian, God indeed loves you dearly! Enter this New Year confidently believing this. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

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

**Hymn & Offering** *(the Offering is received during the singing of the hymn)*

**Hymn 392**

*Stand*

**Offertory**

*LSB 192  
Psalm 51:10-12*

**C** Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Your pres-ence, and take not Your Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Your sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Your free spir-it. A - men.

## Prayer of the Church

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

### Second Sunday after Christmas

Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, You have restored Your divine image to mankind. In Holy Baptism, You give that image to us. Give us joy in our adoption as Your sons and daughters.

O Lord, bless the work of pastors and missionaries. Bring forth Your harvest from the seeds they sow. Support those who endure fiery trials for Your name. As they shine the light of the Gospel into hostile darkness, guard them with the sign of Your cross. Let them rejoice that in tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril or sword, they share in Your very sufferings.

Heavenly Father, You prepared a place for Your Son, Jesus, in the womb of the Virgin Mary and in the home of Mary and Joseph. Bless our homes and all who dwell in them, that Your Word would be heard and Your mercy be shown therein.

Gracious Lord, uphold all our leaders. Direct their work toward the common good of all people as found in God's Law written on our hearts and in Your righteous decrees — especially to protect the unborn and those who cannot speak for themselves.

Merciful Father, You promise to be near to the brokenhearted and to save the crushed in spirit. Look with compassion on the sick and suffering. Grant that they would cry out to You in their trouble and be delivered from their distress, according to Your will.

Lord God, give grace to all who approach Your holy altar today, that they would receive this sacramental mystery worthily, the New Testament of our divine Redeemer, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

O Lord, grant us strength in times of trial and perseverance in grace during the day of trouble. Especially care for all who are persecuted for the sake of Christ.

O Lord God, heavenly Father, You allowed Your Son, Jesus Christ, to become a stranger and sojourner in Egypt for our sake and led Him safely home to His fatherland. Mercifully grant that we poor sinners, who are strangers and sojourners in this perilous world, may soon be called home to our true fatherland, the kingdom of heaven, where we shall live in eternal joy and glory; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Sit*

**Hymn 427**

*Stand*

# Service of the Sacrament

## Preface

LSB 194  
2 Timothy 4:22



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with Your spir - it.



**P** Lift up your hearts.

*[Colossians 3:1]*



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

*[Psalm 136]*



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

## Proper Preface

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, ..... Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

LSB 195

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



**☐** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Sabaoth* is Hebrew for "heavenly hosts."

*Hosannah* is a Hebrew word of praise meaning "save us now."

## Lord's Prayer *(prayed together)*

LSB 196

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**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 forever and ever. Amen.**

## The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## Pax Domini

LSB 197

*John 20:19*



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**A** - men.

## The Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)

LSB 198

*John 1:29*



O Christ, the Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, the Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



*Sit*

## The Distribution Hymn 636

The Lord's Supper has always been seen as a sign of unity between those who commune together at the Lord's Table (1 Cor. 10:17). When Christians partake of the Lord's Supper in a church body that has a confession of faith, they thereby declare that they believe that **they are one in faith with those who commune with them**. We ask visitors who are communicant members in a church not in fellowship with this congregation, or are unfamiliar with the AELC Statement of Faith **to refrain from communing today**. However, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Please show this by crossing your arms across your chest when you come to the communion rail.

*After the Distribution, we stand*



# Nunc Dimittis

SERVICE SETTING 4 LSB 211

Luke 2:29-32

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

# Thanksgiving

LSB 200

Psalm 107:1

**P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**C** and His mercy endures for - ev - er.

## Post-Communion Collect

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Salutation

*LSB 201*  
*2 Timothy 4:22*



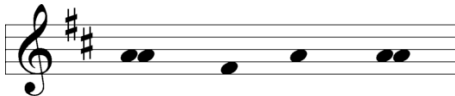
**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with Your spir - it.

## Benedicamus

*LSB 202*  
*[Psalm 103:1]*



**P** Bless we the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction *LSB 202*

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

*Sit*

## Hymn 399

### Acknowledgments

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### Article: No Other Way

“*How was anyone saved before Christ came into the world?*” Are we to believe that there was some other way of salvation in the Old Testament than through the incarnate Lord Christ? Would the Law have been sufficient to bring salvation in the Old Testament, if it was not sufficient in the New Testament (John 1:17-18)?

God justified the wicked (Rom. 4:5) in view of the birth, death, and resurrection of Christ. This was as true for Abraham, who lived in anticipation of the incarnation, as it is for us, who live after the incarnation. God’s plan to save the world was put into effect in the promise to Adam and Eve that Eve’s Offspring would crush the head of the serpent (Gen. 3:15). We should not chide God that He did not give to Eve the fulfilment of her messianic desire (Gen. 4).

God was not careless of the need of His foremost creation. For that hope justified Adam and Eve through the possession of the object of the hope, the coming Messiah, Christ our Lord. If it were not the case that the divine plan to save the world through the incarnation of the Son of God was effective for those both before and after the incarnation actually occurred, it would be as though God Himself was unaware of His own gracious plan. And although the Charles Wesley hymn, “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” describes His coming as “Late in time” (LSB 390:2), is it too late? Not at all. The Son of God comes in this last age at precisely the right time for us. God is not constrained by time, nor by any other creature. If He is constrained by anything, it is by His freely-given grace because of which He determines from eternity to en flesh the Word. The Word, who came in the flesh, first came into the world in the divine speaking to the prophets. There were intimations of His enfleshment when they cried, “Thus says the Lord.” This “delay” filled with the speaking of God’s Word was the proper anticipation and preparation for the enfleshment of the Word. That is why now in this last age we learn of the Word’s becoming flesh only in the Word. There is no other way.

*Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease,  
And be yourself our King of Peace.*

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel! (LSB 357:7)

## **Children's Address:**

Raise your hand if you know any facts about turtles. Now, raise your hand if you know everything about turtles.

Most of us don't know

everything about a subject—turtles or cookies or trains. It's okay to admit you don't know everything!

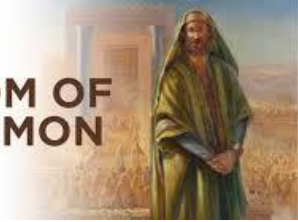
In our Bible reading today, King Solomon admitted he didn't know everything either. In the Old Testament, before Jesus was born, Solomon was King David's son. When he became king, he was pretty young—and his kingdom was pretty big! But for a young king, Solomon had something great going for him: he was humble. God told Solomon he could pick a gift for God to give him, and you know what he asked for? Solomon asked for wisdom!

You see, Solomon knew he was young and didn't have much experience as king. He didn't know everything, and he was willing to admit it. God loves a humble heart, because then a person receives joyfully and gratefully what God gives. Solomon wanted to be a good king for God's people, so he could decide between good and evil, right and wrong. He wanted God to make him wise.

Do you think God gave him what he asked? Did God give Solomon wisdom? Yes, he did! God made Solomon a very wise king, as he was humble before God.

You know who else was very humble? Yes, Jesus! Our Lord Jesus was so humble that He came as a little Baby to save us. Imagine!—God Himself, a king even greater than Solomon, wonderful and wise and powerful, born in a stable, placed in a manger. He could have been anywhere, but He humbled Himself just for us, died on a cross to make us just like Him. And His Holy Spirit gives us gifts just like Solomon. Wisdom, yes, but even better: faith to believe in Christ, who forgives our sins and has won for us eternal life.

## **THE WISDOM OF KING SOLOMON**



So maybe we don't know everything about turtles. Or cookies. Or trains. But we do know this: to the humble, our Lord gives wisdom—wisdom to know Jesus, the Saviour.

*Heavenly Father, You gave wisdom to humble King Solomon. Thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit so we can humbly receive the good gifts won for us by Your beloved Son, Jesus. In His name. Amen.*

## SERVICE TIMES

<b>11 January The Baptism of Jesus</b>	<b>18 January 2 Epiphany</b>	<b>25 January 3 Epiphany</b>
8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA HC 9.00am GRN LR 10.45am AUB HC 9.00am MARBURG LR	8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD HC	8.30am OAK HC 9.00am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.15am GRN HC 9.00am MARBURG LR

<b>Sunday, 11 January</b>		
READINGS: Isaiah 42:1-9;	Romans 6:1-11;	Matthew 3:13-17
HYMNS: 16 (Lutheran Hymnal) 405 590 (560 619) 346		
<b>Sunday, 18 January</b>		
READINGS: Isaiah 49:1-7;	1 Corinthians 1:1-9;	John 1:29-42a
HYMNS: 409 402 587 (746 632) 553		

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

After lunch today, a Parish Executive meeting will be held.

Saturday, 10 January, 1.00pm. Fellowship afternoon at Bethlehem, Toowoomba. All are welcome to attend.

Noa Levi, a member of St Johns Lutheran Church, Aubigny, has been given a wonderful opportunity that God-willing, will lead to full-time missionary work. Noa has sent the following:

*I've had the privilege of being part of Christian student groups at the universities I've been a part of for 8 years. In His grace God has given me many chances to share the gospel with people and to encourage and be encouraged by others to persevere in faith.*

*I've been given the opportunity to do this full-time in 2026. I am starting a new role working with the Australian fellowship of evangelical students (AFES) as an apprentice, where I will be trained in practical skills of sharing the gospel with people, supporting the body of believers and being equipped for a lifetime of serving Jesus.*

*One of the most exciting things about being involved in uni ministry is seeing people put their trust in Jesus for the first time! Uni is often a time when people ask the big questions of life, and I've found that people are surprisingly open to hearing the message of the gospel. There's also a huge number of international students on campus - many of whom have never even heard the name Jesus.*

*I won't receive a regular salary, instead relying on the financial support of family in Christ who give to support this ministry. I'd love to invite you to prayerfully consider partnering with me in this way. You can sign up here:*

*<https://support.afes.org.au/support-noa-levi-macquarie-university-north-ryde-7253>*

*Your prayers that the Lord will guide me & use me to faithfully proclaim Christ would also be incredibly appreciated.*

We wish Noa well in this role, and pray that she will boldly tell others of the love of Christ.

## WEEKLY READINGS

<i><b>Sunday, January 4</b></i>	Isaiah 37-38 Mark 9	<i>Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation (2017) pp. 28-29, The Sacrament of the Altar</i>
<i><b>Monday, January 5</b></i>	Isaiah 39-40 Mark 10	
<i><b>Tuesday, January 6</b></i>	Isaiah 41-42	
<i><b>Wednesday, January 7</b></i>	Isaiah 43-44	
<i><b>Thursday, January 8</b></i>	Isaiah 45-46 Mark 11	
<i><b>Friday, January 9</b></i>	Isaiah 47-49	
<i><b>Saturday, January 10</b></i>	Isaiah 50-52 Mark 12	

### AELC Member Congregations Details

Contact: [ddaalc@gmail.com](mailto:ddaalc@gmail.com)

<i><b>Congregation</b></i>	<i><b>Address</b></i>	<i><b>Giving</b></i>
Bethlehem <b>Toowoomba</b>	41 Buckland Street, Harristown	BSB 638-070 Account 15877094
Our Saviour <b>Lowood</b>	63 Prospect Street, Lowood	BSB 633-108 Account 159171487
St Johns <b>Aubigny</b>	2 Aubigny Crosshill Road, Aubigny	BSB 014-675 Account 388228975
St Pauls <b>Greenwood</b>	617 Acland-Silverleigh Road, Greenwood	BSB 638-070 Account 6918247
Trinity <b>Marburg</b>	19 Edmund Street, Marburg	BSB 633-000 Account 146106893
Trinity <b>Oakey</b>	125 Hamlyn Road, Oakey	BSB 638-070 Account 7405138

Pastor Peter Ziebell: Ph. 0407583922 Email: [paziebell@gmail.com](mailto:paziebell@gmail.com)

The Church Office of the AELC: Email: [ddaalc@gmail.com](mailto:ddaalc@gmail.com)

## About the AELC

The Australian Evangelical Lutheran Church (AELC) believes that the Holy Scriptures are the inspired, inerrant, infallible, and authoritative Word of God, and accordingly, believe that the Holy Scriptures are the sole source of what we believe, teach, and confess. We also subscribe to *The Lutheran Confessions of 1580*, *The Word Shall Stand* and *The AELC Statement of Faith* as correct expositions of Scripture, which address issues that have arisen throughout history by the Word of God. We teach nothing new and stand on Scripture alone as God's Word to us. We teach the message of Christ crucified for sinners. We teach that salvation is by God's grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone.



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