

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

**15 March 2026**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

[www.aelc.org.au](http://www.aelc.org.au)

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

**In preparation of worship, please prepare by praying one of the prayers found on page 308 in your LSB hymnbook and have an Order of Service Booklet.**

*People endure debilitating disabilities—blindness, deafness—and these ailments are not punishment for sin. Without intervention, people in darkness and utter silence remain isolated. Jesus attends wholeheartedly to those who live in darkness and silence. He illuminates minds and hearts with faith, so that people would confess Him as Lord. He heals the blind so that people would see who He is! Christ’s amazing miracles confound the arrogant and enlighten the repentant.*

**Hymns (LSB): 436 566 914 526 619 537**

**Introit: Psalm 142**

<sup>1</sup>With my voice I cry out to the Lord;

with my voice I plead for mercy to the Lord.

<sup>2</sup>I pour out my complaint before him;

I tell my trouble before him.

<sup>3</sup>When my spirit faints within me,

you know my way!

In the path where I walk

they have hidden a trap for me.

<sup>4</sup>Look to the right and see:

there is none who takes notice of me;

no refuge remains to me; no one cares for my soul.

<sup>5</sup>I cry to you, O Lord;

I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.”

<sup>6</sup>Attend to my cry,

for I am brought very low!

Deliver me from my persecutors,

for they are too strong for me!

<sup>7</sup>Bring me out of prison,

that I may give thanks to your name!

The righteous will surround me,

for you will deal bountifully with me.

## The Gradual

Hebrews 12:2

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,  
the founder and perfecter of our faith,  
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,  
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

### Collect:

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### The First Reading

Isaiah 42:14–21

<sup>14</sup>For a long time I have held my peace;  
I have kept still and restrained myself;  
now I will cry out like a woman in labour;  
I will gasp and pant.  
<sup>15</sup>I will lay waste mountains and hills,  
and dry up all their vegetation;  
I will turn the rivers into islands,  
and dry up the pools.  
<sup>16</sup>And I will lead the blind  
in a way that they do not know,  
in paths that they have not known  
I will guide them.  
I will turn the darkness before them into light,  
the rough places into level ground.  
These are the things I do,  
and I do not forsake them.  
<sup>17</sup>They are turned back and utterly put to shame,  
who trust in carved idols,  
who say to metal images,  
“You are our gods.”  
<sup>18</sup>Hear, you deaf,  
and look, you blind, that you may see!  
<sup>19</sup>Who is blind but my servant,  
or deaf as my messenger whom I send?  
Who is blind as my dedicated one,  
or blind as the servant of the Lord?

<sup>20</sup>He sees many things, but does not observe them;  
his ears are open, but he does not hear.

<sup>21</sup>The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,  
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

## **The Second Reading                      Ephesians 5:8–14**

<sup>8</sup>For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,  
“Awake, O sleeper,  
and arise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

## **The Gospel Reading:   John 9:1–7, 13–17, 34–39**

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud <sup>7</sup>and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. . . .

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” . . .

<sup>34</sup>They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup>He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” <sup>38</sup>He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”

## Sermon

# WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT

## Sermon for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent, 2026

### Ephesians 5:8-14

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 taken from Ephesians 5:8-14, our second reading. Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us through Your truth, Your Word is truth. Amen.

Dear friends in Christ,

When Jesus was standing before Pilate shortly before His crucifixion, Pilate smirked, “*What is truth?*” (John 18:38). Why?

Jesus told Pilate that He had come to “*bear witness to the truth,*” saying that “*everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice*” (John 18:37). There is only one truth, one reality, which is the truth found in Jesus Christ. As the eternal Word, He created everything we see *as real*. As the One sent from the Father, He came to restore God’s truth about love and salvation for all. As the Way, the Truth, and the Life<sup>1</sup>, He came to bring us into God’s kingdom and to send His Spirit of Truth to guide us along His path. And again, we learn this truth and become part of Jesus’ kingdom *by listening to Him*. Pilate’s dismissive, sceptical response is what unbelievers—atheists, agnostics, philosophers, sceptics—have asked throughout history, and it remains alive today. We live in a world of secular opinion, meaning that truth is shaped in the *hearts of individuals*. This results in many perspectives on life, with no shared foundation. How can society function when truth depends on personal opinion? What is truth when it can differ from person to person? When there can be more than one truth, how can there be unity?

Today, Paul demonstrates that Christian teaching upholds *objective truth* when he encourages his listeners about their way of life. He explains they were once like Pilate, a people living in darkness, outside faith in Christ. Now, however, having heard God’s Word and being baptised into Christ, he calls them “**light in the Lord**” and urges them to “**walk as children of light ( for the fruit of light is found in all that is good, right, and true).**”

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<sup>1</sup> John 14:6

Paul teaches that once someone comes to faith in Christ, they not only know what is true but also what is right and good. Today, let's explore our text more deeply, focusing especially on these three core virtues, and see how they define what it means to walk as children of light.

To “**walk as children of light**” means, first, that we should walk in a way consistent with all that is *good*. Paul writes, “**Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good...)**”

God alone is good. He is the source and originator of good, that is, of all *moral excellence and purity*. The Scriptures clearly illuminate this. In the beginning, when God saw everything He had made, “*behold, it was very good*” (Gen. 1:12). The Hebrew word used here for “good<sup>2</sup>” refers to something which is beautiful or pleasant, which delights the eye of the beholder or the mind of one who considers it. Throughout the Old Testament, it was evident to the ancient Israelites that goodness is a gift and blessing from God. Psalm 73 acknowledges that “*it is good to be near God*” (v 28), and Psalm 109 affirms that God’s “*steadfast love is good*” (v 21). In the New Testament, Jesus explicitly states, “*No one is good except God alone*” (Mark 10:18). During that moment, Jesus was guiding the rich young man away from relying on his own good deeds to recognising the works of God. As Jesus is God, He was pointing the rich young man to focus on Him.

Though God alone is good, Paul teaches the Ephesians that, by baptism and faith in Christ, they have been brought out of spiritual blindness and can now see what “good” is! Before they knew Christ, the Ephesians *did not know*. Formerly, they were lost, and their lives were lived in pursuit of carnal things. Formerly, they were spiritually in the dark regarding God’s will for them. Paul reminded them, using a figure of speech called a metaphor, how “**one time you were darkness.**” With these words, Paul goes a step further. Not only were the Ephesians misled and under the influence of wicked paganism, *but they themselves were also a bad influence*. **They** were the darkness that misled others to practice and even enjoy gross immorality and wickedness. Paul writes in the 1st chapter of Romans about how low such people had fallen, mentioning that they had been worshipping idols and even engaging in unnatural relations.<sup>3</sup> This behaviour before Christ was not good.

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<sup>2</sup> טוֹב “tov”

<sup>3</sup> Romans 1

Then the prophets, apostles, and Christ Himself brought to the world “news” from this “good God” that came to be called “Good News!” That news was of the only true God, who forgives and saves through the atoning sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. Because of Christ’s suffering and death for the sins of the world, disobedient sinners were able to go from unbelief to belief, from darkness to light, from bad to good.

Pilate, standing near and talking to Jesus, was an unbeliever living in darkness who scoffed at the idea of Christian virtue. His decisions were not based on virtue but on *expediency*. Look at the world around us today. Who is seeking what is morally excellent? Who is seeking what is objectively good? The basis for much decision-making in popular culture is subjective; that means, it comes from within the human heart. “Whatever seems good to me, I shall do!” says modern man. It seems silly to the unbeliever to seek what is good from outside of self, because an upstanding moral life based on an objective ethic does not necessarily indulge the flesh or fill the bank accounts. In fact, it may do the opposite! Paul teaches that “**walking as children of light**” means seeking the good that God has taught and shown.

And not only what is good, but also that which is *right*. Paul writes, “**Walk as children of light** <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is... right.”

Just as God alone is good, God alone is right. When Paul teaches the Ephesians to pursue that which is “**right**,” he is not teaching them to seek what is “correct” as much as he is teaching them to pursue justice and righteousness.

Now, when considering the rightness or righteousness of God, we immediately think of God as judge or arbiter. In fact, the Scriptures reveal God this way in many cases. Again, we appeal to the Psalms. Psalm 7 states clearly, “*God is a righteous judge*” (v 11), and Psalm 50 says, “*The heavens declare His righteousness, for God Himself is judge!*” (v 6).

A proper understanding of “righteousness” is central to understanding the entire Bible. God, who created the world, was sorrowful when His creation fell into sin. Nevertheless, God judged Adam and Eve according to their sin in the Garden of Eden, saying, ultimately, “*By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return*” (Gen. 3:19). As the world now lived in a state corrupted by sin, the Creator was entirely “right” to judge and sentence the sinner harshly.

However, this Divine Judge was very quick to make declarations that were laced with grace and mercy for the sinner. In fact, already with Adam and Eve, though they were judged according to their sins, God spoke words of mercy that related to the promise of a Saviour (Gen. 3:15). Throughout the biblical text, we learn more of the Creator God, who is Judge. His judgments are not made with hostile force and cold indifference. Rather, justice is sought not only with regard to what is right but also with regard to what is merciful. So, the Creator God shows amazing grace as the gift of His Son is announced, a Son who was given willingly for the sake of the lost sinner. As the Messiah was promised to the world, yes, already to Adam and Eve, the declaration of righteousness was made. Now, the sinner did not have to appear before the angry Judge on the basis of his own works or merits. Rather, the sinner was given an Advocate to stand next to him—even in his place as Substitute, taking the death we deserved upon Himself. That advocate was the Son of God, the Saviour, Christ Jesus.

Our God, who is Judge therefore, is not one from whom we should flee, but to whom we should run. In Isaiah, we read of this Judge making a declaration: *“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool”* (Is. 1:18). Paul makes a parallel statement in Romans when he writes, *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”* (Rom. 3:23-24). It is this “good” and “right” God who has brought sinners from darkness to light, and in so doing has called them to that which is right.

Knowing the righteous God who has acted with mercy on behalf of the sinner for the sake of the cross of His Son, Jesus Christ, the Ephesians are now given a very clear understanding of what it means to walk **“as children of light”** in all that is “right.” This “walk” will be consistent with justice and mercy, with sound judgments and compassionate decrees, with attention to the Law of God and a focus on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Understanding what is “right” in light of the Lord, the Ephesians are now given an ethical standard by which to live. Paul tells them in verse 10, **“Try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.”**

Our first thought after reading these words could give the impression that there is considerable uncertainty as to what pleases the Lord, and it is our task to discover it. Actually, the Greek verb in this phrase might better be translated “approve” or

“put your stamp of approval on.” The sense of the sentence would then be: “Live as children of light and put your stamp of approval on what pleases God.” What pleases God is the fruit that light produces, namely, goodness, righteousness, and truth.

Knowledge of what is good and right will go a long way toward helping the Ephesians live out their Christian calling. But Paul speaks of one more virtue in verse 9 that will help them still more, a virtue that Pilate thought was so far from anyone, but a virtue that is close to us in Jesus Christ our Lord: that which is true. “**The fruit of light is found in all that is... true,**” Paul writes.

It’s an ironic moment in time when Pontius Pilate, a man born of Adam, looks into the eyes of the God who created him and smirks, “*What is truth?*” Jesus, of course, is Truth Incarnate. The Bible again speaks of our God as a God of truth. Appealing yet again to the Psalms, we read in Psalm 43, “*Send out Your light and Your truth; let them lead me*” (v 3). In Psalm 51, “*Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart*” (v 6).

The language of truth, like goodness and righteousness, is not only found in the Old Testament but also sounds forth clearly in the New, especially as it relates to Jesus. The Apostle John writes of truth as a theme in his Gospel. Beginning already in chapter 1, he says, “*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth*” (v. 14). Just a few verses later, he writes again, “*For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ*” (v. 17). While these texts are clear, nothing is clearer than what Jesus says in John 14: “*I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me*” (14:6). The Scriptures make it clear. God alone is the source of all truth, and ***if the world is to know truth, then it must know Jesus Christ, the truth of God incarnate.***

Paul says that walking “**as children of light**” must also include walking in the truth, that is, in the facts and realities of life. How does one walk so? Jesus answers this question again in John 8, saying, “*If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free*” (vv 31-32). Jesus clearly teaches that the Word of God is truth, fact, and real, even as He prays in the High Priestly Prayer, “*Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth*” (John 17:17). The Word of God is one of the means through which the Holy Spirit works to bring people from darkness to light. It is God’s Word, which the unbelieving world received through the preaching of Paul, that led them away from that which

was unfruitful, dark, and shameful. God's Word exposed their dark ways so that they could see and live in the light of the truth.

What a struggle we face daily with debates about what is true and real! Truth has become so obscured that it makes us angry and frustrated even just thinking about it: A boy calls himself a girl. A girl calls herself a cat. An unborn child is called a "product of conception." Standing up for your beliefs is labelled as bigotry. And it continues on. It's become clearer that the Christian faith and worldview are under attack by what is false and dark. Today, the world lives in a way very similar to that of the Ephesians before they came into the light of Christ.

But Paul's words in our text are for believers, including us. He is not barking at the unfaithful, but is exhorting God's chosen, His elect in Christ. He is calling and reminding and teaching them—teaching you and me—to live out their rightful calling—our rightful calling—to "**walk as children of light**" that Christ Jesus has clearly made known to us and continues to make clear to us in Holy Scripture. The calling of which Paul spoke to the Ephesians was not based in the mind of man but in the mind and will of God, who created, redeemed, and sanctifies. He exhorts the Ephesians to consider their walk and to be wise in their day, knowing that the days are evil and that Satan will ever continue to attack those who confess Jesus as Lord.

Though virtue remains on trial today in our world and our society, and Pilate's question continues to ring from generation to generation, we have received a word from the only reliable source of wisdom and knowledge in life. The triune God, who is Himself good and right and true, has given us His Son—even to death on the cross—so that we may have these virtues illuminated before our eyes. Not only that, but the Son of God has brought us into His marvellous light by baptism into His name, that we may not only *know* virtue but also *live* virtuous lives.

May we, like the Ephesians, boldly cling to the Word of Christ and pursue that which is good and right and true in our day, to the glory of God and in service to our neighbour. Amen.

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

### **Prayer for the Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Great Physician, enlighten our eyes by Your blessed Gospel, and hide us in Your shelter in the day of trouble. Provide a home in Your Church for those cast out by this world, and unite them with us in the pure confession of Your name.

Lord of glory, You have gathered Your Church and sanctified us in Your truth. Guide and direct our pastor, elders and seminary student Matthew, and all who hold different positions across our parish. Preserve the AELC and send labourers into Your harvest and sustain those whom You have sent.

Almighty Father, uphold in mercy all authorities, especially parents and the civil servants of our nation. Strengthen our homes and keep families firm in the Christian faith. Preserve us from wickedness, and uphold order and justice for a peaceful life. Bring to an end all hostilities in the Middle East.

Lord God, You have promised that what we suffer does not condemn us, but instead displays Your glory. Sustain the afflicted in body or soul, that they would take heart, trust You for healing and find You even in the midst of their trials.

We thank You for the recent rain and pray that You would continue to sustain and keep us. Bless the work of all whose vocation it is to feed our nation.

Blessed, O Lord, is everyone who is not offended by Your Christ. Give us faith to believe His blessed testament, seek His Holy Supper when it is offered for the forgiveness of our sins, and confess Your truth with honest hearts in the communion of this altar.

O Lord, those who wait for Your salvation have the promise that You will not forsake them. Lead those who wander in darkness through rough places, that they would find the way of righteousness and not be put to shame.

All these things, O heavenly Father, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, asking You to grant our prayers not for our sake but for His sake alone. Teach our hearts to be content with Your will and to trust that You will answer with what is best for us and at the right time for our need. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honour and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **Article: Six Lies from the Pit of Hell**

To know, love, and follow the Lord, it is crucial to distinguish between spiritual truth and spiritual lies. Jesus is “the Truth,” (John 14:6) and the devil is “the father of lies” (John 8:44). While some people create new lies every day, the following six lies actually originated from the pit of hell many centuries ago.

#### **1. People earn their way into Heaven by their deeds**

People who believe this lie remain unconverted and lost in sin. They are not born again, saved, redeemed, justified, or forgiven. They are self-righteous and assume their personal righteousness will gain them entrance into heaven. But they will miss out on heaven unless they repent of their works righteousness and rely completely upon Christ alone and His death on the cross for salvation.

The Apostle Paul wrote, *“We know that a man is not justified by observing the Law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the Law, because by observing the Law no one will be justified”* (Galatians 2:16).

## **2. Jesus Christ sinned while living on Earth**

This is a massive falsehood, and yet, surprisingly, many people believe it. But consider this for a moment: If Jesus had sinned even once, He would not be qualified to be anyone’s Saviour. Those who hold such a low view of the Saviour have a huge gap in their theology. This is not a minor biblical doctrine. It is essential to understanding and believing in the Christ of Scripture.

Those who believe this lie need to abandon their wicked opinion about Jesus and trust the Lord as their perfect Saviour from sin. Thankfully, *“He (Christ) committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth”* (1 Peter 2:22).

## **3. The Bible was created by man and is unreliable**

Satan tempted Adam and Eve to doubt what God had told them in the Garden of Eden (see Genesis 3:1-7). Some unbelievers falsely believe that the Bible is merely a human invention and therefore cannot be trusted. In reality, *“All Scripture is God-breathed”* (2 Timothy 3:16). *“No prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit”* (2 Peter 1:20-21). Those who reject God’s Word will themselves be rejected by God forever.

## **4. All religions lead to God**

Anyone who accepts this lie does not understand the Gospel. The Christian faith is entirely incompatible with other religions. The Gospel reveals what God did to save us by sending His only Son to be a sacrifice for our sins on the cross. The Apostle Paul wrote, *“If righteousness could be gained through the Law, Christ died for nothing”* (Galatians 2:21). Those who assume all religions lead to God do not understand what the New Testament clearly presents as the only path to Paradise. Jesus said, *“I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me”* (John 14:6).

## **5. Fornication and homosexual behaviour are not offensive to God**

Sexual sin hardens man's heart toward God like almost no other sin. Those who believe sexual sin is not offensive to God are blind to the truth. In terms of numbers, significantly more people engage in fornication than in homosexual behaviour.

God's Word declares: "*Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral*" (Hebrews 13:4). "*All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body*" (1 Corinthians 6:18). "*Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them*" (Romans 1:32).

## **6. A person's gender is fluid, which makes gender transitioning a good thing**

If you're curious about why so many people have fallen for this lie, simply examine the five lies listed above. The further you stray from God and the Bible, the more you drift into the territory of corrupt doctrines and wicked behaviour. Most who believe this lie don't actually identify as transgender themselves, but they accept transgenderism as healthy, and some even entice children into adopting this harmful ideology. If you find yourself believing this lie, or any of the five lies mentioned above, I encourage you to turn to God immediately and embrace the truth.

The word "repent" means "change of mind." It means to turn away from ungodly beliefs and sinful actions. Call on the name of Jesus Christ to set you free from any false ideas. No matter how deep into sin you are today, Jesus endured the agony of the cross to redeem and rescue us from all our sins.

Believing Satan's lies leads to terrible consequences. By the way, do you know why the devil is filled with so much rage? "*He is filled with fury because he knows that his time is short*" (Revelation 12:12). The devil's future cannot be changed. "*And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever*" (Revelation 20:10).

Rejecting Jesus leads to eternal suffering in hell, whereas trusting Jesus to forgive you is the only way to be delivered from sin, death and hell. Let us never reject Jesus but receive Him with much joy and love!

### **Verse of the Day**

With you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

**Psalm 36:9**

### **Children's Address:**

What does it mean to be blind? Close your eyes. You can't see anything, can you? You're in darkness. There's no light. Okay, open your eyes. It would be hard to live that way, wouldn't it?

In our Bible story today, there was a man who had been born blind. That means he had never been able to see. From the moment he was born, he couldn't see a single thing. He had never seen his mother or father. He had never seen their smiles. He had never seen the sun or a tree or a dog. He could never see anything! His whole life was spent in darkness. There was no light.



Then one day, all of that changed. The blind man couldn't see anything, but Jesus saw him. And Jesus healed him. He put some mud on the man's eyes and told him to wash them in a nearby pool. The man did it. And when the man washed his eyes, he could see! For the first time ever, he could see things! You can imagine how happy he was! And you can also imagine how thankful he was to Jesus for healing him! Now he believed in Jesus!

But the religious leaders were not happy. They didn't like what Jesus did because they didn't believe what Jesus said. They could see just fine; their eyes worked. But even though they could see Jesus, they didn't believe in him.

Seeing with our eyes actually isn't the most important kind of seeing. Jesus wants to give us a different way to see Him. It's called faith. Believing in Jesus is a different way to see Him. It's the best way to see Him. It doesn't matter if your eyes work or if you're blind. It doesn't matter if your eyes are open or closed. You can't see Jesus with your eyes. He's not visible to our sight. But Jesus sees you. And in God's Word, Jesus teaches you that different way to see Him. God's Word gives us faith. God's Word tells us how Jesus died for us on the cross and then rose again from the dead. God's Word forgives our sins and gives us eternal life.

Even though we can't see Jesus with our eyes, we can believe in Him. And one day, we shall see Jesus with our eyes. We shall open our eyes in heaven and see Jesus and live with Him forever.

*Dear Jesus, thank You for giving me faith, a different way to see you. Amen.*

## SERVICE TIMES

<b>22 March 5 Lent</b>	<b>29 March Palm Sunday</b>	<b>5 March Easter Sunday</b>
8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR MS 9.00am MARBURG HC & Bible Study	10.00am TMBA HC AELC Service  <b>Maundy Thursday</b> Wed 1 April: 7.30pm HC GRN Thurs 2 April: 7.00pm HC MARBURG  <b>Good Friday</b> 8.30am OAK LR MS 9.00am TMBA HC 9.00am GRN LR 10.45am AUB HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR	6.00am TMBA HC Easter Sunrise Service 8.30am OAK LR MS 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am MARBURG HC

<b>Sunday, 22 March</b>		
READINGS: Ezekiel 37:1-14;	Romans 8:1-11;	John 11:17-27, 38-53
HYMNS: 819 430 (tune 62 LH) 687 (608 623) 725		
<b>Sunday, 29 March</b>		
READINGS: Isaiah 50:4-9a;	Philippians 2:5-11;	John 12:12-19
HYMNS: 441 86 (LH) 347 573 622 921		
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>		
READINGS: Exodus 24:3-11;	Hebrews 9:11-22;	Matthew 26:17-30
HYMNS: 575 617 639 433 625 886		

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DOWNS MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE:**

Wednesday, 18 March, 7.30pm at Trinity Oakey

HYMNS: 611 598 427

Sunday, 15 March, 1.00pm, for the members of TRINITY MARBURG: A meeting will be held at the church to discuss the reserving of plots in the cemetery. ALL members are asked to attend this meeting.

Saturday, March 21st, 7:00pm. Young Adults & Youth (YAY) for **Aubigny-Oakey-Greenwood** at St Johns Aubigny. The hall is open from 6:30pm. Please bring your Bible and a plate to share for supper. Any questions, please contact Matthew.

Sunday, 29 March. Parish AGM at Toowoomba after service.

### WEEKLY READINGS

<b>Sunday, March 15</b>	Leviticus 25 Revelation 3	<i>Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation (2017)</i> pp. 85-92, Christian Questions with their Answers 59 - 64
<b>Monday, March 16</b>	Leviticus 26-27 Revelation 4	
<b>Tuesday, March 17</b>	Daniel 1-2 Revelation 5	
<b>Wednesday, March 18</b>	Daniel 3-4 Revelation 6	
<b>Thursday, March 19</b>	Daniel 5-7 Revelation 7	
<b>Friday, March 20</b>	Daniel 8-10 Revelation 8	
<b>Saturday, March 21</b>	Daniel 11-12 Revelation 9	

### AELC Member Congregations Details

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

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