

THE AUSTRALIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (AELC)

BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD, ST JOHNS AUBIGNY,

ST PAULS GREENWOOD, TRINITY MARBURG, TRINITY OAKEY

29 March 2026

Palm Sunday

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

Crowds pursue Jesus to see Him, hear Him, ridicule Him, and finally crucify Him. The sequence from popularity to persecution unfolds on this Sunday of the Passion. Hosanna accolades would be stifled by jeering mockery. The imagery of palm branches would be obscured with the bloodied palms and wounded head of Jesus. Within a week, Christ is adorned in beauty and fame, scorning and shame. For us, He decidedly unravels death's hideous sting!

In preparation of worship, please prepare by praying one of the prayers found on page 308 in your LSB hymnbook

Hymns (LSB): 441 86(LH) 347 573 622 921

Verse of the Day

He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:8b

Sandt

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 441

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]

Kneel/Sit

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 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 & Glory to the Father

Psalm 118:19–29

**Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.**

**This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.**

**I thank You that You have answered me
and have become my salvation.**

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.**

**This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.**

**This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Save us, we pray, O Lord!

O Lord, we pray, give us success!

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

We bless You from the house of the Lord.

The Lord is God,

and He has made His light to shine upon us.

**Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,
up to the horns of the altar!
You are my God, and I shall give thanks to You;
You are my God; I shall extol You.
Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
for His steadfast love endures forever!**

**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

Hebrews 9:12a, c, 15a; Psalm 111:9a

¶ [Christ] entered once for all into the holy places, by means of His own blood,
thus securing an eternal redemption.

Therefore He is the Mediator of a new covenant,
so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.
He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever.

The Lord Have Mercy (Kyrie)

Mark 10:47



¶ 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 and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our

Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4–9a

⁴The Lord God has given Me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a Word
him who is weary.

Morning by morning He awakens;
He awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord God has opened My ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.

⁶I gave My back to those who strike,
and My cheeks to those who pull out the beard;
I hid not My face
from disgrace and spitting.

⁷But the Lord God helps Me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set My face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

⁸He who vindicates Me is near.
Who will contend with Me?
Let us stand up together.

Who is My adversary?
Let him come near to Me.

⁹Behold, the Lord God helps Me;
who will declare Me guilty?

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:5–11

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God

has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

434 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

Stanza 1

1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,
Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.
All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

Holy Gospel

P The Holy Gospel according to **John 12:12-19**.

C Glo - ry be to You, O Lord.

¹²The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. ¹³They took palm branches and went out to meet Him, shouting,

“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Blessed is the King of Israel!”

¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

¹⁵“Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion;

see, your King is coming,

seated on a donkey’s colt.”

¹⁶ At first His disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realise that these things had been written about Him and that these things had been done to Him.

¹⁷ Now the crowd that was with Him when He called Lazarus from the tomb and raised Him from the dead continued to spread the word. ¹⁸ Many people, because they had heard that He had performed this sign, went out to meet Him. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after Him!”

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.

Hymn 86 (LH)

1
All glory, laud, and honour
To Thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
Thou art the King of Israel,
Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's name comest,
The King and blessed one.

2
The company of angels
Are praising Thee on high,
And mortal men and all things
Created make reply.
The people of the Hebrews
With palms before Thee went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems
Before Thee we present.

3
To Thee before Thy passion
They sang their hymns of praise;
To Thee now high exalted
Our melody we raise.
Thou didst accept their praises;
Accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest,
Thou good and gracious King.

4
All glory, laud, and honour
To Thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
Thou art the King of Israel,
Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's name comest,
The King and blessed one.

Sermon (*the congregation stands to hear the text and then sits*)

HAVE THIS MIND AMONG YOURSELVES **Sermon for Palm Sunday, 2026** **Philippians 2:5-11**

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 Philippians 2:5-11, our Second Reading read before.

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

Dear friends in Christ,

Jesus arrived at Bethany on a Friday. A couple days later, after the Sabbath had passed, the large crowd that had come for the feast heard that Jesus was heading to Jerusalem, so they cut and laid out branches and even placed their own cloaks on the road¹, all the while shouting, “*Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!*”

These were words taken from Psalm 118, sung as part of the Passover feast. Jews sang it when the Passover lambs were sacrificed, and now they sang it for the Lamb of God on His way to be their sacrifice. But they weren’t thinking of sacrifice. Instead, they received Jesus as heavenly royalty, *Israel’s King*.

While it’s good for us to remember Jesus entering Jerusalem, we must never forget that this event signalled Jesus’ journey toward death. No matter what anyone declared that Sunday many years ago, on the following Friday, *Jesus would be dead*.

We can perhaps imagine what sort of attitude or thought process Jesus must have had to ride into town, knowing that He was going to face betrayal, arrest, crucifixion, and death. Surely no one in their right mind would willingly take a path where they know it ends in death. To do so would require a real sense of mission and an enormous will. But it would also require Jesus to be humble, and it is this humility that the Apostle Paul urges us to copy when he says, “**Have this mind among yourselves.**” As Christ was humble, so must we.

A few verses earlier, Paul wrote, “*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others*” (v. 3-4).

Humility is a vital concept in the New Testament, a clear mark of a committed Christian, and stands in opposition to the selfishness and pride inherent in our corrupt, sinful natures, which often see humility as cowardice and equate pride

¹ Matthew 21:8

and self-assertiveness with true manhood. Books and podcasts offering assertiveness training and effective ways of exercising power and “looking out for number one” are hugely popular and profitable. However, the attitude of a heart transformed by God’s grace is no longer “me first and everyone else after me, if at all.” Instead, it is a humble and loving attitude that puts others’ interests before one’s own.

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself.” That is true humility. Jesus Christ was God — is God. Whatever it is to be God, with all the power and glory and so forth, Jesus had it. From all eternity, Jesus has been one with the Father, being truly God. His eternal existence as God is unshakable and unchangeable. Jesus’ divine nature is incapable of experiencing humiliation; yet, while fully retaining His divine nature, He took on a true human nature. *He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary*. He who is true God from all eternity became a true man and has dwelt among us. This is what we call the *incarnation*, and we understand it as one of the great mysteries of the Christian faith, one that cannot be overappreciated. Think of all that Jesus gave up.

He could do anything, anywhere, anytime. Still, He did not consider that possession to be too tremendous, too precious, or too valuable to be set aside. He did not hold His own glory and power and prerogatives as more significant or desirable than our salvation. He counted redeeming us *as more important* than the enjoyment of His own participation in the glories of the Trinity for a time.

Jesus didn’t cease being God. He was, and always remained, true God, but *for a time* He set aside His divine power and took on human weakness. He relinquished His knowledge and became an infant in the womb. He set aside His glory and became not just human, but a helpless child, in an insignificant family, in a remote region of an impoverished nation under military occupation, during a period we would consider primitive. That’s what Paul means when he says Jesus **“emptied Himself.”** That is genuine humility — *humbling Himself beyond all reason, forsaking His own comfort, glory, and prerogatives for the sake of His enemies’ well-being and salvation—us—sinful mankind*. He considered nothing too great to give up in order to fulfill His purpose, which is our redemption from sin, death, and hell.

That is the attitude Paul is challenging us to imitate and make our own. If you want to think like Jesus — and believe me, if you consider yourself to be a Christian YOU DO — then this is what you should imitate, *humility*. Nothing should be too much to lose for the sake of Christ, or for the sake of His Gospel, or for the sake of His people. No indignity should be more than you can bear. No insult should be too much to take. No embarrassment should be enough to stop you, and no loss, even to the point of your own life, should be beyond what you are willing to give.

That was the attitude of Christ — humility which permitted Him to become one of us and to die so violently and shamefully for us. We are to partake of that humility. We are to humble ourselves in our own minds so that our interests and our comfort *take second place* to the welfare and spiritual health of others! This is not about allowing someone to make you do something; it is about doing it yourself because it is right, setting others and *their* needs first before our comforts, our preferences, our personal pride, and even our own needs, simply because it is the will of God that we do so. **“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.”**

On the night of His betrayal, Jesus said to His disciples, *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another”* (John 13:34-35). The disciples could not follow Christ to the cross, but He asks them to imitate His love for them by loving one another. Christians bring dishonour to Christ and His love when they deal with one another in a loveless manner. Are there any among you today who have bitterness in their hearts toward someone else? If so, can you say you are showing the humility Christ asks of us?

The mind of Christ is the attitude of *humility marked by love*. He has loved us so much that He endured the loss of all things. He was willing to even set aside the glory of being God to take on our human flesh and blood and human nature. He loved us so much that He was willing to endure the assault of human sinfulness while He lived a perfect and sinless life. His love was so deep that He was willing to take our sin on Himself and endure the wrath of God against us so that we would never need to. The passion and the cross were truly terrible, and the wrath of God which caused Him to abandon His only Son to bleed and die on the cross alone is beyond our comprehension, and the humility of Jesus

Christ has led Him to do all of that so that we may be forgiven, justified, and brought into the love of God by grace, and adopted into His family as not merely slaves, but as brothers! His resurrection and eternal life are also ours. It is won for all men and poured out on all and possessed by those who trust God and believe His Word and love. After His glorious resurrection, speaking to His disciples, Jesus said, “*Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved*” (Mark 16:15-16).

Jesus did not just give up glory and power, but gave up His life. Paul writes that Jesus “**emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.** ⁸ **And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**”

Jesus became one of us. He took on the form and nature of those He had created to be His servants — His slaves. He became everything you are, except for sin. He carried the aches and pains. He carried the troubles of life. He carried emotions, joys, and griefs. He endured not being able to have it His way at every moment, of having others decide for Him. He was a normal man, except that He was also God, enduring this normality and humbling Himself to submerge His power and glory in this human nature, and then,

“**He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**” He did not deserve to die. He had not sinned and earned death. He deserved life. Nevertheless, He allowed men to take Him captive when He *could have disabled them with a thought or wiped their existence away with a single word*. He allowed them to mock Him where He deserved praise and glory, and to beat and torture Him where He deserved worship and adoration. He even prayed for those who tortured and abused Him, that God would not hold this sin against them.²

Then He died. His executioners did not kill Him. No, *He set His life aside by His own power and died at just the right moment by an act of His will*. Still, He humbled Himself to permit them to drive nails through His hands and feet and hang Him on a cross — an instrument of monstrous torture and death — and thereby took upon Himself a curse He Himself had spoken in Deuteronomy 21:23, namely that anyone who is hung on a tree “*is under God’s curse*” or, as

² Luke 23:34

the curse is paraphrased by Paul in Galatians 3:13, “*cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.*”

Jesus “**humbled Himself**” for us to the point of becoming the curse for us, and, taking the curse of God against the one who would die on a tree on Himself, has died deliberately in our place. Isaiah writes, “*Surely, He has taken on Himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows. Yet we considered Him to be wounded, struck down by God and afflicted. However, He was pierced for our rebellious acts. He was bruised for our wrongdoings. The chastisement that brought us peace was on Him, and through His wounds we have been healed,*” (53:4-5). That is how far Jesus has humbled Himself, and because of it *all our sins have been forgiven, we have been given eternal life, and shall one day rise from our graves to sing in His true triumphal parade on that grand and glorious Palm Sunday of eternity!*

Seeing that, Paul encourages us to have the same attitude — to have the mind of Christ. Paul is inspired to add an inducement to the picture by reminding us of the reward for Jesus, for His humility and obedience to the will and plan of the Father when he writes, “**Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name,** ¹⁰ **so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,** ¹¹ **and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**”

Just as it was for Jesus, so will it be for us. We shall not lose by imitating His humility. Having the same mind Christ Jesus had, we receive the same good pleasure of God. The earthly blessings are not the same, of course, just as the tasks we shall perform are not the same, but God the Father *will reward our true humility with a true glory of our own and bless each of us with life eternal* beyond our comprehension. Any loss we may suffer now is but for a time, but the reward and the joys will be forever. God has promised to return and repay all of our losses. And it is all so that God may work through us just as He did through Jesus, that His will may be fully accomplished for us and those to whom God would have us bring the good news.

But this attitude is not something we can simply do on our own. We are not told to grit our teeth and work it up in ourselves and do the unpleasant. No, we are encouraged to live in the light of the truth of the Gospel. God loves us, and He will provide. He knows everything we need and everything we do, and so strengthens us and encourages us to possess the mind of Christ. He not only

cares for our bodies but also for our souls. We cannot outrun God’s goodness, out-give His generosity, or overestimate the care and concern which God has for each one of us. Speaking through Paul, the Lord asks us to walk in His light, to have the love of God, and to live in true humility.

Therefore, we trust God to be our supply. We live knowing that God has given us everything we need and that He has placed us here to love and to take care of one another, and to share His love with those who have not yet believed. In doing so, we find true glory, for the glory of God is that He has done all that He accomplished in Jesus Christ — for sinners — for you and for me. Amen.

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

Hymn & Offering

Hymn 347

Stand

Offertory

*LSB 192
Psalm 51:10-12*

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.

Palm Sunday

King of glory, Lord of hosts, open the gates of our hearts and make way for Your blessed Son. Forgive our sins and renew our souls so we may glorify Him who died to save us.

Merciful Lord, You have raised up faithful leaders for Your Church, and we ask You to continue providing for us. Prosper the efforts of those who bring the light of Christ to those living in darkness. Bless those whose acts of mercy extend Your love to the disabled, wounded, and forgotten throughout the world, that Your Church may serve You faithfully in both service and witness.

Heavenly Father, You sacrificed Your own Son on the cross so that we may be called Your children. Increase the faith of all Christian fathers so that, by receiving Jesus and trusting in His atoning sacrifice, they may be inspired to show sacrificial love for their children.

Mighty Lord, all the strength of man is nothing before You, yet You have appointed earthly realms and rulers to punish evil and honour good. Grant us faithful leaders who will serve honourably and well. Bless also those who serve in law enforcement and the armed forces. Please bring a swift end to the conflict in the Middle East.

Lord of hosts, Your Son, Jesus, came to save His people from all evil. Take away the fear from all who suffer in this world. As they wait for the fullness of their salvation, fix their eyes on their crucified Saviour.

Almighty God, Your Son humbly rode into Jerusalem to the shouts of “Hosanna!” so that He might give us righteousness and salvation through His death and resurrection. Mercifully grant that we humbly repent of our sins and rejoice in His presence as He visits us with His body and blood in His Holy Supper today.

Lord God, make our ears like the ears of Your Son, Jesus, always open to hear Your voice and eager to obey Your will. As His precious Gospel echoes in our ears, fill our tongues with praise and boldness to proclaim His wondrous works for our salvation.

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves, our bodies and souls, and all things; save us, O Lord, faithful God; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our

Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn 573

Stand

Preface

*LSB 194
2 Timothy 4:22*



P The Lord be with you.



C And with Your spir - it.

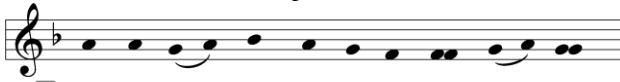


P Lift up your hearts.

[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

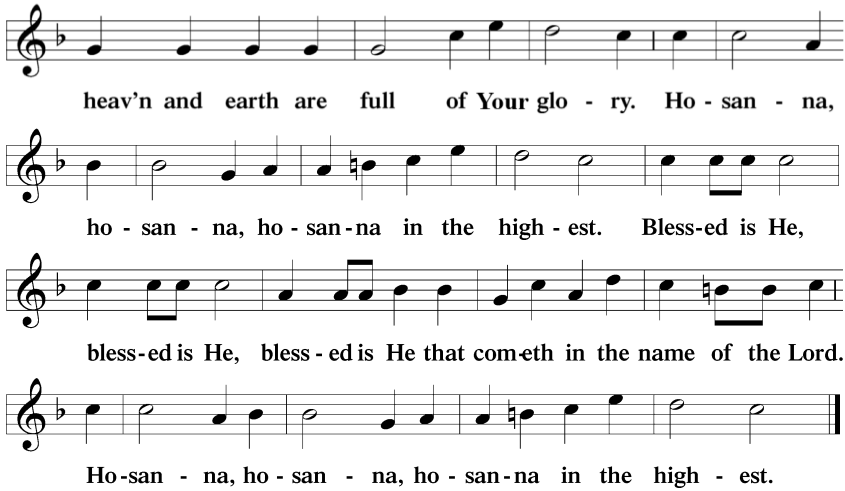
P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore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

Sanctus

*LSB 195
Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



C 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.

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



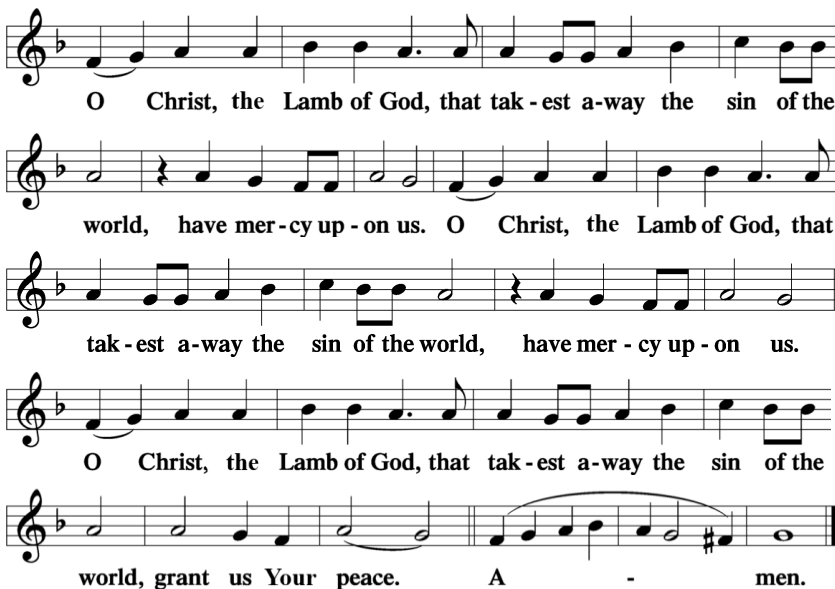
Two staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff contains a melodic line with a fermata over the final note. The second staff contains a shorter melodic line.

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

☐ A - men.

The Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)

LSB 198
John 1:29



Five staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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
world, grant us Your peace. A - men.

The Distribution

Distribution Hymn 622

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

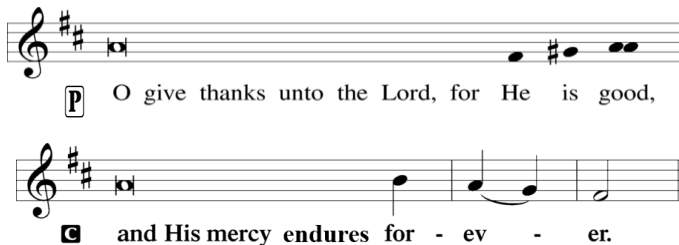
LSB 211 Luke 2:29-32



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.



C A - men.

Salutation

2



P The Lord be with you.



C And with Your spir - it.

LSB 201

Timothy 4:22

Benedicamus



P Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

LSB 202

[Psalm 103:1]

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 921

Acknowledgments

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Article: Facing Our Failures: Lessons from Peter's Denial

At the heart of the Gospel of Mark, in chapter 14:66-72, lies a narrative rich with vulnerability, failure, and redemption. Mark recounts the historical story of Peter, a close follower of Jesus, who, despite his passionate declarations of loyalty, denies knowing Jesus three times. Peter's moment of weakness is not just a tale from ancient times. One reason the Holy Spirit preserved this story is because it reflects the struggles we face today in standing firm in our beliefs amidst societal pressures. Christians around the globe are being pressured into abandoning their biblical convictions. Shall we deny Jesus too?

The Struggle of Faith in a Sceptical World

We live in times where openly expressing one's faith can be met with suspicion, ridicule, or even outright hostility. The fear of being ostracised or misunderstood can lead to moments where, like Peter, we may find ourselves denying our convictions. We can deny our Lord both explicitly, like Peter did, or through our silence. Sometimes, if you're like me, the times when I have swallowed down my convictions, succumbed to the pressure, and kept quiet, haunt me. The question that arises from Peter's story is not about the inevitability of our failures but about how we prepare ourselves to face them and stand firm in our faith. But it is also a passage that teaches us something remarkable about Jesus' love, even though He knows we may fail Him.

Preparation Through Reflection and Trust

Peter's denial teaches us the importance of self-awareness and trust in God. Before the moment of his denial, Peter was confident in his own strength. Peter painted the picture clearly. Everyone else would desert Jesus. But there would still be one standing on the battlefield next to his Lord. And, if it came down to it, Peter would die for Jesus. However, it was exactly this confidence that led to Peter's downfall. Take heed, you who stand, lest you fall.

It is exactly at this point we must put ourselves in Peter's shoes. We, like Peter, too often rely on ourselves. If we stop for a moment and reflect on our vulnerabilities, things may change. It is crucial that we rely on God as we prepare ourselves for the

moments when our faith will be tested. We must not rely on our own strength. We must trust God. He is our shield and our strength.

The narrative also highlights the power of forgiveness and redemption. Despite Peter's denial, he is not cast aside. Instead, his story is one of being remembered and restored. It's no accident why Jesus at the resurrection told the women to go get Peter. There's no wonder why Jesus asked Peter three times, "Do you love Me?" Peter's salvation and hope of glory were never meant to depend on his own strength. Jesus went to that cross knowing he would bear the guilt of Peter's sin. Peter called down a curse upon himself, but Jesus would take that curse. What a powerful testament to the grace that awaits us, even in our weakest moments.

Practical Applications for Today

Embrace Humility: The way up is down. He must increase, and we must decrease. It is crucial that we recognise that our ability to stand firm does not come from our own resolve but from God Himself. Not even the strength of our trust. As disciples, we embrace humility and acknowledge that, like Peter, our own understanding and strength are insufficient.

Cultivate a Relationship with the Holy Spirit: The transformation of Peter from a denier to a bold proclaimer of the Gospel is a journey of empowerment through the Holy Spirit. Peter went from being frightened of the Jewish people to preaching to thousands. How? What changed between Peter's thrice denial and a few months later, preaching Christ in the temple? Peter met the resurrected Christ, was restored to his position, and received the Holy Spirit. The weakest Christian is the one who relies solely on their own strength. We must nurture a deep, personal relationship with the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to guide, strengthen, and embolden us in our walk of faith.

Know the Gospel: You will face challenges in this life to deny Christ. Opportunities will come for you to proclaim Jesus or to shrink back. In moments of difficulty, the depth of your understanding and the conviction of the Gospel within you are your greatest defence. You must know the Gospel. You must know your Lord. You must know that the Gospel is for you. You must know Jesus as your Lord. Preach the Gospel to yourself. Immerse yourself in the Scriptures, not just as a routine, but as a foundation for life.

Live Out Your Faith with Love and Meekness: It is remarkable that Peter, the former denier, is now led by the Holy Spirit to write to the churches about how to be effective apologists. Peter teaches us in 1 Peter 3:13-17 that our journey of boldness

in faith is not about confrontation but about standing firm with love, humility, and a clear conscience. We must be ready to defend the hope we have. However, our attitude should be one of meekness, reverence, and a good conscience. Let your life be a testament to the grace you've received by showing grace, love, and understanding to others, even when faced with opposition.

Seek Community and Encouragement: Just as Peter was not alone in his journey, neither are we. Surround yourself with a faith community that inspires, supports, and challenges you to grow in your walk with God.

May the Lord be your strength. May the Lion of Judah be your confidence. May the Holy Spirit fill your heart with His courage. May you suffer for the Lord of glory well. May His kingdom come and His will be done here on earth as it is in heaven.

Children's Address:

Who can tell me what we call this very special Sunday? Right, Palm Sunday. What happened on Palm Sunday? And why do we call it Palm Sunday?

A long time ago, on this day we now call Palm Sunday, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. People put their clothes on the donkey for Him to ride on, and on the road, too. They sang praises to Jesus. And some of them waved palm branches to welcome Him. That's why we call it Palm Sunday.

Do you know who was in that crowd? Yes, lots of different people. But the Bible especially mentions children. Children were in the crowd. Some running and jumping. Some are being held by their parents. Some were waving palm branches, just like the



grown-ups were. It was so exciting! I'm sure Jesus was happy the children were there, singing praises to Him. I know Jesus is happy when you praise Him, too.

However, a few days after Jesus rode on that donkey and people waved

palm branches, He was nailed to the cross.

Dying on that cross hurt terribly! But even though Jesus was in such pain, you know who He was thinking about? He was thinking about everyone who needs forgiveness. He was thinking about the children back then. He was thinking about you. He did everything He needed to do so that you could be with Him forever. All your sins were nailed to the cross with Jesus. Now we can rejoice and sing “Hosannah” every day because we have been forgiven!

Thank You, Jesus, for riding into Jerusalem for me. Because of Your death and resurrection, I know that I have eternal life. Amen.

SERVICE TIMES

1-3 April Easter Services	5 April Easter Sunday	12 April 1 Easter
<p>Maundy Thursday (White) Wed 1 April: 7.30pm HC GRN Thurs 2 April: 7.00pm HC MARBURG</p> <p>Good Friday* (Black or Bare) 8.30am OAK HC 9.00am TMBA LR MS 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR</p> <p>*please note changes so ALL congregations will have HC over the Easter period</p>	<p>6.00am TMBA HC Easter Sunrise Service 8.30am OAK LR MS 9.00am GRN LR 10.00am AUB LR MS 9.00am MARBURG HC</p> <p>Pastor is away 6-18 April</p>	<p>8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD LR MS</p>

Maundy Thursday

READINGS: Exodus 24:3-11; Hebrews 9:11-22; Matthew 26:17-30

HYMNS: 575 617 639 433 625 886

Good Friday

READINGS: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 19:17-30

HYMNS: 448 452 447 (437 531) 554

Easter Sunday

READINGS: TMBA: Exodus 14:10-15:1; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18
Acts 10:34-43; Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10

HYMNS: 457 467 475 560 710 484

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, the Parish AGM will be held.

Wednesday, 1 April, 10.00am. Women's Guild at Bethlehem Toowoomba.
Opening Devotion: Fay. Choose a Bible verse from Ruth chapters 1-4. Item of Interest: "B". A birthday card.

Monday, 6 April. 10.00 am. Parish Sunday School Picnic at St Johns Aubigny. All are invited to attend. Could each family please provide a plate to share and also something for dessert? If you would like to bring along any games/puzzles (eg. how many jellybeans in a jar etc) please do!

The Women's Guild is again running an Easter colouring competition for the children. Sunday School-aged children can take home a picture to colour in today. Please bring it to the Easter Monday Picnic at Aubigny!

WEEKLY READINGS

Sunday, March 29	Numbers 7-8 Rev 17	<i>Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation (2017)</i> pp. 105 - 109, Seventh Commandment Questions 78 - 82
Monday, March 30	Numbers 9-11 Rev 18	
Tuesday, March 31	Numbers 12-14 Rev 19	
Wednesday, April 1	Numbers 15-16 Rev 20	
Thursday, April 2	Numbers 17-19 Rev 21	
Friday, April 3	Numbers 20-22 Rev 22	
Saturday, April 4	Numbers 23-25 Matthew 1	

AELC Member Congregations Details

Contact: ddaalc@gmail.com

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

Pastor Peter Ziebell: Ph. 0407583922 Email: paziebell@gmail.com

The Church Office of the AELC: Email: 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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