

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

10 May 2026

Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

Paul unmasks an entire culture of religious idolatry where objects of worship are rubbish and religious assertions are merely fabricated in the minds of men. In the midst of the ungodly, he preaches the counsels of God, tells of the need for repentance, and confirms the resurrection of the dead. The resurrected Christ is the one we worship. His commandments are divine assertions. By Baptism, we are believers in all these things, loved by God and enabled to love.

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

Hymns (LSB): 779 567 588 (683 617) 812

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. Alleluia.

Romans 6:9; John 16:33b

Stand

Invocation

R In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

Hymn 779

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.**

Psalms 124:8

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

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

Psalms 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 66:8–20

⁸Bless our God, O peoples;

let the sound of his praise be heard,

⁹who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us;

you have tried us as silver is tried.

¹¹You brought us into the net;

you laid a crushing burden on our backs;

¹²you let men ride over our heads;

we went through fire and through water;

yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

¹³I will come into your house with burnt offerings;

I will perform my vows to you,

¹⁴that which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

¹⁵I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals,

with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;

I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

¹⁶Come and hear, all you who fear God,

and I will tell what he has done for my soul.

¹⁷I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue.

¹⁸If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

¹⁹But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

²⁰Blessèd be God,

because he has not rejected my prayer

or removed his steadfast love from me!

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

adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

P Christ has risen from the dead.

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honour.
He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;
he has put all things under his feet.

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



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.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22



☐ And with your spir - it.

P Let us pray:

The Collect

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

First Reading

Acts 17:16-31

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,

²⁷that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸for “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed his offspring.” ²⁹Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading 1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behaviour in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand
Alleluia



☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

P The Holy Gospel according to **John 14:15-21.**



☐ Glo - ry be to You, O Lord.

¹⁵[Jesus said:] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

**CI 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 567

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

ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO SPEAK UP FOR CHRIST

Sermon for the 6th Sunday in Easter 2026

1 Peter 3:13-22

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 from before, 1 Peter 3:13–22: ¹³ **Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?** ¹⁴ **But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,** ¹⁵ **but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defence to anyone**

who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behaviour in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which He went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to Him.

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

Dear friends in Christ,

We live lives of preparedness. We make plans. We get ready. We look ahead. Big bills coming up? We put money aside and get ready to pay that bill when it's due. Taking time off for a holiday? We plan that holiday and get ready for some relaxation. Want to retire someday? Then we plan to build up our retirement nest and get ready for the day we retire. You get the idea. We live our lives in preparation. Sometimes things don't go to plan, yet we do our best to be prepared.

Today, Peter asks us to be prepared and ready for something else. *What is it?* He writes that we must always be **“prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.”**

There is no doubt we are living in the last days. Read the words of Christ in Matthew 24, and you will see the end is getting closer. Christ speaks of wars and rumours of wars, nation rising against nation, famines, earthquakes, tribulation, and even the murder of the faithful. All these things are happening now, and it is not hard to look around and start to feel depressed. And just when you think things can't get any worse, they usually do! Thank God we are only in this world,

but not of the world (John 17:14-16). We are God’s children, and so, He has prepared a place for us in His heavenly kingdom. This is the hope that Peter is speaking of, and the Apostle Paul reminds us when he says, “*Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God*” (Col. 3:2). Paul does not despise the things of the earth but realises that this fallen world should not be our focus. So it is for us. Our focus is on our home in heaven, and in that, we hope.

As we await the call from Jesus to enter our heavenly home, we know that there will be opportunities to share our faith with others, and so, we are to be prepared to speak about this truth whenever we have the opportunity. And how do we do this? Certainly not by hammering someone on the head or shoving our religion down their throats. No, we are to speak to others with “**gentleness and respect**” because nobody can stand evangelism that comes from aggressive, pushy “know-it-all” people. Nobody can stand someone who talks all the time or who puffs up his own denomination by ridiculing other Christian groups. There is a time and place for careful discussion of disagreements among Christian church groups, but a conversation with a fallen-away Christian or a non-Christian is not it. Respect is also of huge importance when communicating Christ across cultures. People will be more inclined to open to your message if they feel respected and not judged according to their culture. It is enough to simply remind them of who they are in Christ, “*who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth*” (1 Tim. 2:4).

Now, the *specific situation* that Peter here has in mind is Christians who are being pressured and persecuted for their Christian faith. Persecution can take many forms. It can be physical and violent in high-risk areas ruled by extremist groups and authoritarian regimes, as found in places like Nigeria or North Korea. Then there is persecution that comes in countries such as Pakistan and China, where state authorities often use laws and surveillance to cripple any Christian activity. Then there is the social and economic pressure that is placed on Christians, such as in some Middle Eastern and Asian countries, who are denied jobs and basic resources.

When Peter wrote his Letter, Christians were a small, misunderstood minority often viewed with suspicion or accused of being “haters of humanity” because they didn’t participate in pagan civic rituals. They were moving from being viewed as a protected Jewish sect to being seen as a dangerous, “illegal”

superstition as more and more Gentiles joined them. Because Christianity was a “new” religion and had no ancient ethnic roots, it became an unauthorised, or “illicit” religion. It was making people feel uncomfortable, and they didn’t understand or like it. And so, the Christians would come under scrutiny. People would be watching their every action closely. They would be watching how they conduct themselves. If the Christians messed up, if they slipped up, then that would give people a reason to dismiss their religion, or even to justify persecuting them.

So Peter tells Christians in this situation to watch their conduct and be ready to speak up for the Christian faith. He writes: **“Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behaviour in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.”**

Now, even though we Christians in Australia are not facing violent persecution or imprisonment for our faith—at least not yet—to some extent, things have not changed from Peter’s day to ours. Today, Christians are still looked upon by people in our culture as being a little weird or strange. The world does not understand our religion. They don’t get it. They don’t like it. We make them feel uncomfortable. We remind them that there is a God in the heavens who is looking down on all of us and seeing how we’re doing. People want to get out from under that. Their conscience nags at them. They’d rather not think about things like God and guilt, sin and death, and what happens after that. And we Christians remind them of all that uncomfortable reality.

So don’t be surprised when the people of this world look for opportunities to make fun of us Christians, or focus on our flaws and foibles, in order to dismiss our faith. *“Oh, those Christians, they’re just a bunch of phonies and hypocrites. Who needs their stupid religion? Who needs their church?”* That’s the attitude of the world around us.

What Peter is saying to his hearers is, “**Don’t give them ammunition.**” Don’t give the world extra reasons to dismiss Christianity by doing wrong and bringing shame to the name of Christ. It’s going to be bad enough anyway for Christians living in a hostile world. *Don’t make things worse with your bad behaviour.*

And this is a reminder for us, too. How are we living out there in the world? Is our behaviour bringing praise or disgrace to the name of Christ? Are we living any differently from the people of the world? We should be. The Holy Spirit makes a difference in the way we live. Love and good works are the fruit of a living faith. But if we behave in a way that people say, “*If that’s how a Christian lives, if that’s how the people of that church act, then I don’t want any part of it*”—in those cases, we are giving a negative witness to our Lord and His Church. If so, then we need to repent of our sin and return to the Lord for His forgiveness and His help to do better. And He will do it.

But even when we are conducting ourselves in a way that befits the Christian life, the people of this world still will be looking at us a little sceptically. So we return to Peter’s words to always be “**prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.**” Are you prepared? Are you ready to speak up if someone were to ask you about the hope you have as a Christian? You should be. Why? Because you have been baptised. You are saved and thus ready to speak.

You have been baptised. Into what? *Into Christ’s death and resurrection* (Rom. 6). You have been joined to Jesus, connected to Him in Holy Baptism. Your life is all bound up with His. And this is good. In fact, this is great! It means everything to be connected to Jesus. Without Him, you have no hope, you have no future. Only death and the grave and eternal separation from God would lie in front of you. You would be the walking dead right now, apart from Christ. But with Him you have everything going for you, all the stuff that really matters: peace with God, forgiveness for your sins, the Holy Spirit working in your life, the sure hope of everlasting life to come. All this and more is what you received when you were baptised into Christ.

And so, you are saved. Jesus says so. “*He who believes and is baptised will be saved*” (Mark 16:16). Or, as Peter puts it in our text today: “**Baptism... now saves you.**” Yes, here and elsewhere, the Bible teaches the saving power of Holy Baptism. The main thing in baptism is what *God is doing*. *God acts* in and through baptism. That’s why we call it a sacrament. *God is working to save us from our sins, unite us with Christ, and bring us to new and eternal life.*

Peter compares the saving waters of baptism to the flood of Noah's time. Noah and his family were saved through the waters of that flood. Peter says they were **"brought safely through water."** The water saved them by separating them from the corrupting influence of the unbelieving world around them. The water saved them by separating them from the destruction that God was pouring out on the evil world.

So it is for us, in the waters of Holy Baptism. **"Baptism... now saves you."** It gives you a good conscience before God, Peter says, **"through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."** All your sins have been washed away. You stand clean before God, with a clear conscience, and it's all because of what Christ your Saviour has done for you.

It always comes back to Jesus. Notice how Peter grounds everything in Christ: **"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God."** That's what Jesus did when He died on the cross for us. Jesus was perfectly righteous, with no sin of His own, and yet He suffered death for us, in order to bring us to God, righteous by way of forgiveness. That's what Jesus did for us by His atoning death on the cross.

And what did Jesus do next? Peter continues: **"being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which He went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey."** This is talking about Christ's bodily descent into hell. After Jesus died, and before His resurrection, at some point during that time, Jesus descended into hell to proclaim His victory over hell and the devil. Yes, Christ's victory and authority extend over death and Hades, so that the devil has no more power over us. More good news!

And then there is the resurrection itself. The victory has been made known and witnessed, and is now proclaimed for all to hear! **"The resurrection of Jesus Christ,"** Peter writes, **"who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to Him."** Notice how Peter here basically has taken us through what would become the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed. For in this text Peter has hit on all these points: that Jesus Christ our Lord *"was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty."*

This is how you have the hope you do. *It's all centred in Christ and in what He has done for you and what He has in store for you.* This is the Christian faith.

This is the Christian hope. This is what you have been baptised into. This is how you are saved.

This, then, is why and how you are ready to speak. Just tell the people about Jesus. Speak the Apostles' Creed if you can't think of anything else to say. It's all there, you know: Who God is, and who He is for us. The heavenly Father, who created us and cares for us. God the Son, Jesus Christ, the One who died and rose for us, to bring us to God and to give us eternal life. The Holy Spirit, who quickens our faith in Christ and keeps us close to Him and draws us into the life of the church.

And so I ask you again, one more time: Are you ready? Are you ready to speak up about your Saviour and the Christian faith and hope? I hope so, because you've got so much going for you! You've got so much to speak about and share. For you have been baptised. You have been saved, and that, in turn, makes you ready to speak. Amen.

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

Hymn & Offering

Hymn 588

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.

Prayer of the Church for Sixth Sunday of Easter

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

O Lord, You give us life in Christ. Grant that, having been strengthened by Your gifts, we may gladly tell others of the hope that we have in You.

Let Your Spirit be at work through our pastor as he proclaims Your Word, that he may teach us all things and bring to remembrance all Your Son has said to us. Be with our student Matthew and all who hold positions in the AELC, that they may follow You and serve us.

Lord of heaven and earth, You have given the Spirit of truth to dwell in us through Holy Baptism. Grant Your Spirit's steadfast guidance, that the feet of this congregation may not slip into sin and unbelief, but live always in praise of You before the world.

Heavenly Father, Your Son in His incarnation took on our human flesh and was born of the Virgin Mary. He submitted to His mother, honouring and obeying her, so fulfilling the commandment where we have not. On this Mother's Day, graciously accept our thanksgiving for the mothers You have given to us. Teach us to honour them aright — loving, obeying and giving thanks for them, as is fitting in Your sight. Support all pregnant women and ensure safe deliveries. Comfort all women who long to have children but cannot, that they may find their consolation in You and Your unfailing love.

Almighty God, You made from one man all the nations of the earth, and still You sustain us. Grant good leaders in every land who will seek peace and serve justice. Frustrate the causes of evil, violence and oppression.

Listening Lord, You always wait upon the prayers of Your people and attend to their cries. Inspire us to pray in all seasons of life and through all trials, giving us faith in Your promise to answer us.

O Lord, we give You thanks for the salvation and life You give us through Christ Jesus. You do not leave Your people as orphans but strengthen the penitent with the body and blood of Your Son. Whenever we receive the Lord's Supper, help us to receive what You offer there for our good, that our faith may be strengthened and we would be further equipped for Your service.

We entrust all these petitions to Your care, loving Father, confident in Your great mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is worshipped together with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn 683

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

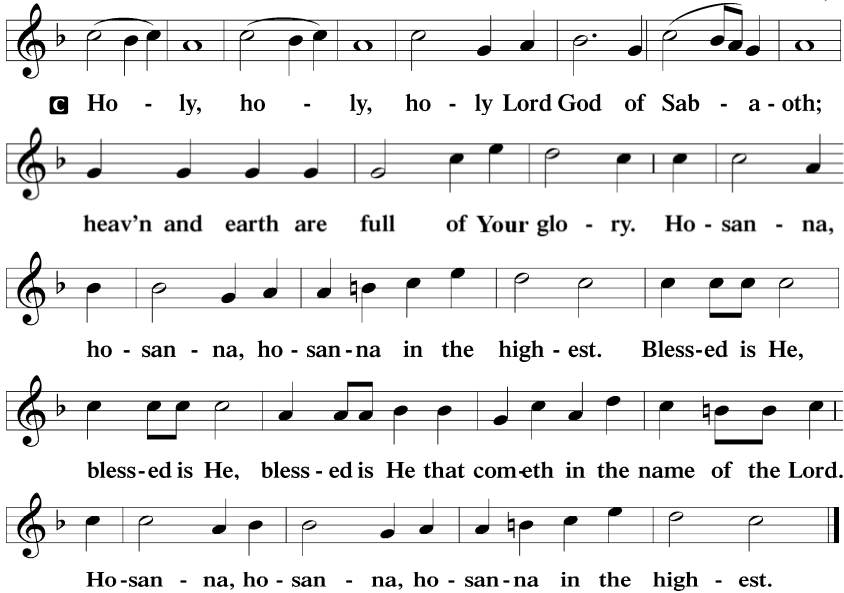
P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

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.

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



☐ 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



world, grant us Your peace. A - men.

The Distribution

Distribution Hymn 617

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

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

*LSB 201
2Timothy4:22*



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.

Hymn 812

Acknowledgments

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ARTICLE: My Life is in God's Hands.

God governs human life. We die when God has determined we will die. He gave life, and he can cause life on this earth to cease. Moses wrote, “*You turn men back to dust, saying, ‘Return to dust, O sons of men’*” (Psalm 90:3).

From God's perspective on the governance of the world, nothing is left to chance. All the created world falls under the governance of God. Jesus said, “*Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father*” (Matt. 10:29). In the same way, we die when God has determined we shall die. From the perspective of God's governance of the world, the length of human life is fixed. As Job observed, “*Man's days are determined; You have decreed the number of his months and have set limits he cannot exceed*” (Job 14:5). God has already determined the exact year, month, day, and second of the end of each individual's life.

However, from the perspective of human accountability, we can lengthen or shorten our days on earth. We do not know how long God has determined for our lives. The Fifth Commandment tells us to care for the bodies God has given us. The Lord promises long life in connection with obedience to the Fourth Commandment (Eph 6:3). He threatens to shorten life in connection with disobedience to the Fourth Commandment. “*The eye that mocks a father, that scorns obedience to a mother, will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley, will be eaten by the vultures*” (Prov. 30:17). Er and Onan shortened their lives by their sins (Gen. 38:7, 10). Absalom shortened his life by rebelling against his father (2 Sam. 18:14, 15). On the other hand, God granted Hezekiah 15 additional years to his life in answer to prayer (2 Kings 20:5-6). Paul urged the sailors on board his ship to eat food lest they die (Ac 27:33-34).

Thus we take comfort from the fact that God determines how long we live. If I were getting ready to board an aeroplane and someone told me a psychic had predicted that the plane would crash, my reply would be, “My times are in God's hands.” On the other hand, if I were getting ready to board the plane and noticed that oil was leaking from the engines, that one of the wings had a crack, and that the pilot was drunk, I would not get on that plane. God gave us common sense to know when we may be putting our lives in danger.

Death frightens us (Heb. 2:15). Yet God has given us hope and encouragement. As Paul wrote, “*Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ*” (1 Cor. 15:54-57). It is through faith in Christ, who conquered death for us, that we may face it with courage and conviction. Death, for a believer, is, in the final analysis, a deliverance from the troubles of this life. As Paul wrote when he anticipated his death, “*The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom*” (2 Tim. 4:18).

WEEKLY READINGS

Sunday, May 10	Jeremiah 18-19 Matthew 23	<i>Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation (2017)</i> pp. 146 - 155, The First Article Part 2 Questions 131 - 139
Monday, May 11	Jeremiah 20-21 Matthew 24	
Tuesday, May 12	Jeremiah 22-23	
Wednesday, May 13	Jeremiah 24-26 Matthew 25	
Thursday, May 14	Jeremiah 27-29	
Friday, May 15	Jeremiah 30-32	
Saturday, May 16	Jeremiah 33 Matthew 26	

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Children's Address:

We all love Jesus, don't we! Why? Because Jesus loves us. In fact, He loves us so much that he died on the cross to take away our sins, so that we could be with Him in heaven. That's why we love Jesus, isn't it?

In our Gospel reading today, Jesus says, "*If you love Me, you will keep My commandments*" (John 14:15). What does Jesus command us to do? Think of the Ten Commandments. Those are all things Jesus commands us to do. Those are His commandments. But you know what? All those commandments are really these: love God and love all other people.



Jesus kept God's commandments perfectly by always loving people. When Jesus saw a man who was blind, He restored his sight. Sometimes Jesus met people who couldn't walk, couldn't hear, or were sick. Jesus helped those people to walk, hear, and feel well again. He loved His parents and those who served in the government by obeying them. He loved by never taking anything that belonged to someone else. He loved being honest, never lying. These are some ways Jesus showed His love for people.

We show our love for people when we do the same things. What are some ways we can show people we love them? Maybe we could give someone a hug, or say something nice about them, or share our goods with them.

There's another way we can show people we love them. We can tell them that Jesus loves them and died on the cross for their sins. We can tell them that He is alive again and that He wants them to be in heaven with Him someday. We can invite them to church and to be baptised. Since we love Jesus, we show people how much we love them by doing things like Jesus did to help others. God loves to see us doing things to help others.

Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us. We love You. Help us show our friends and family how much we love You by the things we do to help them. Give us words to teach others about You. Amen.

SERVICE TIMES

14 May The Ascension	17 May 7 Easter	24 May Pentecost
Thursday	WHITE	RED
7.30pm OAK HC	8.30am OAK LR MS 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 MS 9.00am LOWOOD HC

Thursday, The Ascension		
READINGS: Acts 1:1-11;	Ephesians 1:15-23;	Luke 24:44-53
HYMNS: 821 494 492 339 637 477		
Sunday, 7 Easter		
READINGS: Acts 1:12-26;	1 Peter 4:12-19;5:6-11;	John 17:1-11
HYMNS: 587 564 756 (563 623) 814		
Sunday, Pentecost		
READINGS: Numbers 11:24-30;	Acts 2:1-21;	John 7:37-39
HYMNS: 913 497 498 (532 619) 496		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, 12 May, 7.30pm. Men’s Fellowship at Trinity Oakey.

Saturday, 16 May at 6pm, Toowoomba YAY (Young Adults & Youth) at Toowoomba. The hall is open from 5:30pm. Please bring your Bible, hymn book, and a plate to share for supper. Any questions, please ask Matthew.

Sunday, 17 May, 1.00pm. Seminary Committee meeting at Bethlehem, Toowoomba.

Bible Studies for May:

Sunday, 17th, 8.00am, Toowoomba.

Thursday, 21st, 10.00am, Lowood. (note the day)

Wednesday, 20th, 7.30pm, Greenwood.

Friday, 29th, 7.30pm, Oak/Aub at Oakey.

Trinity Oakey members: A working bee will be held on Saturday, 16 May.

For anyone who would like a copy of the “Child Protection and Safety Risk Management Policy 2026” for the Darling Downs Parish of the AELC for your individual congregation to read so that it can be adopted as the Child Safety policy for the congregation, please email the Child Safety Officer at childsafety@aelc.org.au for an online copy, or ask for a printed copy.

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



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