

AUSTRALIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (AELC)

BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD, ST JOHNS AUBIGNY,
ST PAULS GREENWOOD, TRINITY MARBURG, TRINITY OAKY

www.aelc.org.au

May 31, 2026 – Trinity Sunday

Liturgical Colour: White

Welcome to all worshipping with us today! Please prepare by praying a prayer found on page 308 in the LSB hymnbook and have an Order of Service Booklet.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory! Alleluia. **Isaiah 6:3b**

Hymns (LSB): 578 507 947 (565 622) 953

Introit (*read together*): Psalm 8

O Lord, our Lord,

how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

You have set Your glory above the heavens.

Out of the mouth of babes and infants,

You have established strength because of Your foes,

to still the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,

the moon and the stars, which You have set in place,

what is man that You are mindful of him,

and the son of man that you care for him?

Yet You have made Him a little lower than the heavenly beings

and crowned Him with glory and honor.

You have given him dominion over the works of Your hands;

You have put all things under his feet,

all sheep and oxen,

and also the beasts of the field,

the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,

whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O Lord, our Lord,

how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

**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

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,
And His greatness is unsearchable.
On Your wondrous works, I shall meditate,
And I shall declare your greatness.

Collect (*prayed together*): **Almighty and everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The First Reading: Genesis 1:1—2:4a

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the

earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” ²¹So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. ²⁵And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” ²⁹And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.

³⁰And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

¹Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ²And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day

and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

⁴These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

The Second Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-36

¹⁴Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . .

²²“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—²³this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

““I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;

²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
my flesh also will dwell in hope.

²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One see corruption.

²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹“Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.

³³Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

““The Lord said to my Lord,
Sit at my right hand,

³⁵until I make your enemies your footstool.’

³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.

¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Article: Tickle v Giggle

I am sure you are all aware of the recent ruling in the Tickle v Giggle court case, where three Australian Federal Court judges ruled in favour of Roxanne Tickle, a biological male who identifies as a woman, who successfully sued Sall Grover, founder of the Giggle for Girls app (an online social networking app marketed as an exclusive, women-only safe space for networking, community, and freelancing), for blocking her account on the grounds of gender identity.

Under Australia’s Sex Discrimination Act, it is illegal for providers of goods or services to discriminate against another person on the grounds of a person’s gender identity.

Giggle's legal team argued throughout the original case that sex is a biological concept. They freely conceded that Tickle was discriminated against, but on the grounds of sex, rather than gender identity.

The court found that Grover had engaged in unlawful direct discrimination, saying she had treated Tickle “who is a transgender woman, less favourably than a person designated female at birth seeking access to the Giggle App,” and awarded Tickle \$20,000 compensation.

Grover says she intends to appeal the decision in the High Court.

In another similar case, anti-trans activist and Binary Australia spokeswoman Kirralie Smith has been ordered to pay \$95,000 in fines and issue a public apology after she was found to have vilified two trans women earlier this year who were playing football with their local clubs. It marked the first time someone had been found to have unlawfully vilified a person for being trans under NSW law.

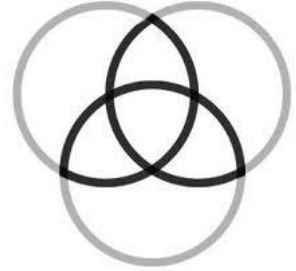
advanceaustralia.org.au has started a petition to the Prime Minister to change the law back to defining men as men, and women as women. To quote, “We are calling on you and your Labor colleagues to amend the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 – immediately – to put the definition of “man” and “woman” back into Australian law, and to restore sex-based protections for women and girls.”

If you would like to sign the petition (which has so far garnered over 20, 000 names), please go to www.advanceaustralia.org.au/men-are-not-women-campaign

Children's Address:

Psalm 8 talks about how God is so big and so powerful that He could create the whole universe. In other words, all the way around the world and way, way beyond the sky. God made all that: everything, everywhere. The psalm says, “*O Lord, ... You have set Your glory above the heavens. ... Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place*” (vv 1, 3).

And God is even more amazing than just big and powerful, because even though He's one God, He's also three what we call Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He's what we call the Trinity, or the triune God, because “tri” means “three” and “une” means “one.” That's amazing!—He's three, but He's also one! That's something we can't really understand.



When God is so amazing, though—so big and powerful and impossible to understand—how does that make you feel? It could make us feel really small! We're not that big! There are things we're not smart enough to understand. Little old us. But God doesn't think we're too small to matter. To God, we matter so much that He came all the way down here to be with us.

Remember God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? God the Son—who's that? Receive responses. Right! That's Jesus!—God the Son, Jesus, became one of us, a real person, like little old us, and died on the cross so that we could be with great big triune God! We're a very big deal to God! *Thank You, heavenly Father, for making the world and sending Your only Son, Jesus, to be here with us. Thank You for His dying on the cross and then for Your Holy Spirit making us Yours in Baptism. Thank You for caring for us so, small though we are, O blessed Holy Trinity. Amen.*

If you wish to view, download, or print copies of anything in the bulletin from online, either the Sermon, Prayer, Children's Address, Article, or the Bulletin please visit the AELC Website at www.aelc.org.au/resources/



Sunday of the Church Year: Trinity Sunday

There is only one true God. And yet, even from the inception of man, it is clear that the Father, Son, and Spirit are inseparable—mysteriously one, uniquely distinct. In creation, God orchestrates the palette of the universe; in redemption, Jesus secures grace through bitter wounds, death, and resurrection; and through the Word, the Spirit commands, teaches, and reveals truth. Into all this, we are baptised in the name of the triune God.

UPCOMING SERVICE TIMES

June 7 <i>Second Sunday of Pentecost</i>	9:30am Aubigny Lay Reading 8:30am Oakey Holy Communion 10:15am Greenwood Holy Communion	Readings: Hosea 5:15-6:6; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13 Hymns: 915, 689, 409, (606, 618), 993
Liturgical Colour: Green	9:00am Toowoomba Preaching (MS) 9:00am Lowood Lay Reading	
June 14 <i>Third Sunday of Pentecost</i>	10:45am Aubigny Holy Communion 8:30am Oakey Lay Reading 9:30am Greenwood Preaching (MS)	Readings: Exodus 19:2-8; Romans 5:6-15; Matthew 9:35-10:8 Hymns: 826, 571, 918 (606, 625), 392
Liturgical Colour: Green	9:00am Toowoomba Holy Communion 9:00am Marburg Lay Reading	
June 21 <i>Fourth Sunday of Pentecost</i>	9:30am Aubigny Preaching (MS) 8:30am Oakey Lay Reading 9:30am Greenwood Lay Reading 9:00am Toowoomba Lay Reading	Readings: Hymns:
Liturgical Colour: Green	9:00am Lowood Holy Communion	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

www.aelc.org.au/whats-on

Wednesday, 3 June, 10.00am. Women’s Guild at Bethlehem Toowoomba. Opening Devotion: Leanne. Choose a Bible Verse from: 1st Samuel Chapter 8 – 13. Item of Interest: “D” Diary.

Bible Studies for June:

- Sunday, 14 June, 8.00am TMBA.
- Wednesday, 17 June, 10.00am LOWOOD.
- Wednesday, 17 June, 7.30pm GRN.
- Friday, 26 June, 7.30pm Oak/Aub at Aubigny.

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Church Locations: For all church locations and their details throughout the AELC, please go to www.aelc.org.au/church-locations

Online Giving: For online/electronic giving/offerings and for church bank details to set up a recurring direct debit, please go to www.aelc.org.au/online-giving

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 subscribe to *The Book of Concord* of 1580, *The Word Shall Stand* (1990) 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 continue to confess the teachings of the *Evangelical Lutheran Church* wherever she is found 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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WEEKLY READINGS

Sun., May 31	Deuteronomy 16-18	<i>Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation (2017) pp. 176-187, The Second Article Part 2. Questions 162-175</i>
Mon., June 1	Deuteronomy 16-18 Acts 5	
Tues., June 2	Deuteronomy 22-24	
Wed., June 3	Deuteronomy 25-27 Acts 6	
Thurs., June 4	Deuteronomy 28-30	
Fri., June 5	Deuteronomy 31 Acts 7	
Sat., June 6	Deuteronomy 32-34	