

**BULLETIN FOR TRINITY MARBURG, ST JOHN'S MINDEN,
OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD.**

6th Sunday after Pentecost 16th July 2017.

Closed Communion

The A.E.L.C upholds the historical, biblical and Lutheran practice of closed communion. Therefore we ask that only A.E.L.C members come forward for communion.

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.

Hymns: 564, 267, 507, 197, 283, 515.

INTROIT: Psalm 65:1-8

P You receive praise in silence in Zion,

C O God, and vows to You will be fulfilled.

P O You who hear prayer,

C To You all human beings will come.

P Iniquitous things have been prevailing over me.

C You Yourself will provide atonement for our rebellious actions.

P Blessed is the person whom You choose and whom You bring near, that he may dwell in Your courts!

C We shall be satisfied with the good things of Your house, the holiness of Your temple.

P You answer us in righteousness with awesome deeds, O our saving God,

C the Confidence of all the ends of the earth and of the most distant sea.

P He is the One who sets the mountains in place by His strength,

C the One who puts on strength like a waistcloth.

P He is the One who calms the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves,

C and the turmoil of the peoples.

P Those who live at the ends of the earth have been in awe of Your miraculous signs.

All You make the places where morning dawns and the places where evening fades shout for joy.

COLLECT: Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast to the blessed hope of ever lasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

READINGS:

Old Testament: Isaiah 55:10-13.

Epistle: Romans 8:12-17.

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.

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 for this morning is written in the book of Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 which was our Gospel reading before.

1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat down beside the sea. **2** However, such large crowds gathered around Him that He got into a boat and sat in it, while the entire crowd was standing on the shore. **3** Then He told them many things in parables. He said, “Look! A sower went out to sow. **4** While he was sowing, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. **5** Other seeds fell on the stony places, where they did not have much soil. Because their soil was not deep, the seeds came up quickly. **6** However, when the sun rose, they were scorched, and, because they had no root, they withered. **7** Other seeds fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them. **8** However, other seeds fell on the good soil and produced grain, some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times as much. **9** Let the one who has ears listen!”

18 “Therefore hear the parable of the sower! **19** When anyone hears the Word of the kingdom but does not understand it, the Evil One comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This one

is he who has been sown along the path. ²⁰ The one who has been sown on the stony places is the one who hears the Word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ but he does not have root in himself. He lasts for only a short time, and, when trouble or persecution comes because of the Word, he immediately falls away.

²² The person who has been sown among thorns is one who hears the Word, but the worry of the world and the seduction that comes from riches choke the Word, and it does not produce anything.

²³ However, the person who has been sown on the good soil is the one who hears the Word and understands it, and so produces and yields, sometimes a hundred, sometimes sixty, and sometimes thirty times as much.”

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

Why the Odds Favour Islam

Summarized from Christian News.

by William Kilpatrick.

On May 22, an Islamic suicide bomber detonated himself outside a Pop Concert in Manchester England, killing and wounding dozens, many of them young children.

The terrorist was a 22 year old named Salaman Abdie. A few days after the attack, I was reading an article about the Mosque he attended - the Didsbury Mosque. "That's funny," I thought looking at the accompanying photo "that doesn't look like a Mosque, it looks like a Church."

Sure enough, as I discovered, the Didsbury Moeque was once the Albert Park Methodist Chapel. It had been bought by the local Syrian Muslim community and transformed into a Muslim place of worship.

Similar transformations have been taking place in other parts of the

UK. St. Mark's Church in London is now the 'New Peckham Mosque, St. Peter's Church in Cobridge was sold.: to the Madina Mosque. 'The Brick' Lane Mosque in London was. originally a Methodist church. But church to mosque conversions are only part of a larger story There are now 423 mosques in London, and the number is expected to grow. Meanwhile, 500 London churches have closed since 2001, and in all of England 10,000 churches have closed since 1960.

The. transformation of the Albert . Park Methodist Church to the Didsbury Mosque' is emblematic of one of the most significant shifts in history: the transformation. of Europe from a largely Christian continent to a largely . Islamic one.

The transformation is far from complete, and there's an outside chance the process can be reversed, but time and demographics favour Islam

In several of Europe's cities, the Muslim population now hovers around the thirty percent mark. In ten years' time, that will be forty per cent. Of course that doesn't mean 40 percent of highly committed Muslims facing 60 percent of deeply devout, Christians. Both faiths have" their share of half-hearted "nominal's" for whom religion is more a cultural inheritance than a deeply held conviction. Still, the "nominal" problem' is a much greater problem for European Christians than for European Muslims.

In many European countries, Sunday, church attendance is the 5-10 percent range whereas mosque attendance is very high in relation to the size of the Muslim population. In England, there are already more Muslims attending Friday prayers than there are Christians attending Anglican services on Sundays. A study by Christian research predicts that by 2020 the number of Muslims attending prayer service in England and Wales will exceed the number of Catholics attending weekly Mass.....

"If there is no God," wrote Dostoevsky, "everything is permitted." Secularism has no God and therefore, no ultimate standard of judgement.

The end result is that each man becomes his own god and does his own thing - even if that "thing" involves the exploitation of childhood innocence. Islam, on the other hand, does believe in God, but not the God Dostoevsky had in mind. The God of Islam is an arbitrary despot whose commands are not rooted in reason, love, or justice.

So we have two arbitrary systems vying for control of the West—the soft totalitarianism of secularism and the hard totalitarianism of Islam. Both are really forms of slavery. Muslims are slaves of a tyrannical god, and secular man becomes the slave of his own desires and addictions. It may seem unthinkable that the West will ever submit to Islam, but many Western citizens are already in submission mode. Submission to their desires has put them in a bad spot. As a result, they are looking for something bigger to submit to—something outside and above their own - fragile selves. Some have already turned to Islam. Many more will unless...

Unless, that is, there is a recovery of the Judeo- Christian belief that God is a God of love, justice, reason, and goodness—and that we are made in his image (a concept which does not exist in Islam). In the context of that vision, belief in human dignity and the rights of man is thoroughly justified.

People who believe that they and their neighbour are made in the image of God will generally have a strong sense of their responsibility to act accordingly. Such people will be far from perfect, but they will at least realize that it is wrong to submit both to Islam's warped image of God and to secularism's degraded image of man.

In the end, the choice for the West is not between Islam and pluralistic secularism. A rootless secularism will almost certainly submit to Islam. The only real hope for the West is the recovery of the faith that once

inspired Christians to build a beautiful church near "Albert Park in West Didsbury, England. *"In the first place."*



This mosque at Brassall once used to be an Anglican Church. If we Christians no longer fill our churches, will we be selling them all to the Muslims?

500th Anniversary celebrations of the Lutheran Reformation 2017

*MOVIE NIGHT FRIDAY 22nd September at Marburg. *Time to be advised.* Feature, "The Luther Movie", bring a friend, bring your neighbour.

*REFORMATION HYMN SINGING SATURDAY 21st of OCTOBER bring/share at Minden arriving at 5pm to start the meal by 5.30pm.

*REFORMATION BRING/SHARE COMBINED SERVICE on the 29th October at 10am AUSBIGNY Darling Downs. There will not be a local Service here in our Parish as I will be Preaching there on the day.

>Divine Service 23 July(Green) 9am Trinity Marburg
Readings : Psalm 119: 57-64 7th Sunday after Pentecost
Old Testament: Isaiah 44: 6-8
Epistle: Romans 8: 18-27 Hymns: 407, 164, 564, 338, 293, 511.
Gospel: Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43.

> Divine Service 30th July (Green) 9am Our Saviour Lowood.
Readings: Psalm 125 8th Sunday of Pentecost
Old Testament: Deuteronomy 7:6-9
Epistle: Romans 8: 28-39 Hymns: 188, 400, 173, 186, 191.
Gospel: Matthew 13: 44-52.

> Just a reminder to those who have copies of the LSB hymnal to bring them to all Minden Services to help out with numbers.

> Mid week Bible study on July the 20th at Lowood 10am bring and share, Trivia on the book of Zephaniah not Habakkuk, my apologies.

> Jake Zabel will be taking a L/R and preaching at Lowood on the 30th of July while Pastor is going to Tin Can Bay for further talks with the Sekman's and will be taking HC to our members.

> New re printed copies of God's Eternal Word Bibles are now available for purchase at \$65 each. Please see Pastor.

> For those who have asked for a bank account to place their offerings electronically:

Trinity Marburg BSB: 633000. Account No: 146106893.

St John's Minden BSB: 633000. Account No: 135053577.

Our Saviour Lowood BSB 633000. Account No: 159171487.

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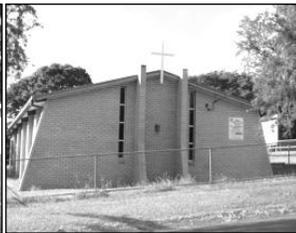
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