

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

5th Sunday after the Epiphany 4th January 2018.

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.

Mark 1:29–39

LSB Hymns: 820, 398, 846,731, 619, 923.

Introit: Psalm 147:1-11.

P Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God.

C For it is pleasant. A song of praise is delightful.

P The LORD is the Builder of Jerusalem.

C He gathers the outcasts of Israel.

P He is the Healer of broken-hearted people.

C He binds up their sores.

P He counts out the number of stars.

C He gives all of them their names.

P Great is our Lord and great in might!

C There is no limit to His understanding.

P The LORD helps afflicted people.

C He brings wicked people down to the ground.

P Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving!

C Make melody to our God with the lyre!

P He covers the heavens with clouds. He prepares rain for the ground.

C He makes the grass grow on the mountains.

P He gives food to the animals,

C and to the young ravens that call out.

P He does not delight in the strength of the horse.

C He takes no pleasure in the thighs of a man.

**All: The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those
who hope in His mercy.**

Collect: O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly Grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Old Testament: Isaiah 40:21-31.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:16-27.

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

The text for the sermon this morning is written in the book of St Mark 1:29-39 which was our Gospel reading before.

29 Immediately after they left the synagogue, they went into the home of Simon and Andrew, together with James and John. 30 Simon's mother-in-law was lying down with a fever, and they told Jesus about her at once.

31 He went to her, took her hand, and lifted her up. The fever left her, and she began to wait on them.

32 In the evening, when the sun had set, people kept bringing to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. 33 The whole city had gathered at the door. 34 Jesus healed many who were sick with various diseases, and drove out many demons, but He would not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.

35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a lonely place, and there He prayed. 36 Simon and those who were with him searched for Him. 37 When they found Him, they told Him, "Everyone is looking for You."

38 He told them, "Let us go somewhere else, to the small towns that are near, so that I may preach there also! For I have come forth for this purpose."

39 He went and preached in their synagogues everywhere in Galilee and drove out the demons.

Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us in your truth. Your Word is truth.

Amen.

PRAY WITHOUT DOUBTING

If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.

Matthew 21:22

Before you pray, check to see whether you believe or doubt that you will be heard. If you are doubting or uncertain, or if you are merely trying a prayer to see what happens, your prayer won't be worth anything. For you aren't keeping your heart steady but letting it wobble back and forth. As a result, God cannot give anything to this kind of heart, just as you cannot give something to a person who doesn't hold her hand still.

Imagine how you would feel if a person had earnestly asked you for something but then said to you, “I don’t really believe you will give it to me,” even though you had promised that you would beforehand. You would think he was mocking you by his request. You would take back everything you had promised and perhaps even punish him on top of it.

How can it please God when we do the same to him when we pray? God assures us that when we ask him for something, he will give it to us. By doubting him, we call him a liar and contradict our own prayers. By not believing him, we insult God’s truthfulness, the same truthfulness we rely on when we pray. This is why we say the little word Amen at the end of our prayers. We use it to express our firm, heartfelt faith. It’s like saying, “O God, I have no doubt that you will give me what I ask for in prayer.

DON’T WAIT TO PRAY

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Psalm 51:1

You must pray when you are in the heat of temptation—when your mind is preoccupied with thoughts of lust or revenge. If someone urges you to pray under these circumstances, your mind often insists that it’s too impure—as if your dirty thoughts leave no room for prayer. But you must not wait for temptation to end or the thoughts of lust and other sins to totally disappear from your mind before you pray.

At precisely the moment when you feel the strongest temptation and are least prepared to pray, go to a place where you can be alone. Pray the Lord’s Prayer or any other prayer you can think of to defend against the devil and his temptations. Then you will feel the temptation decrease, and Satan will run away. Those who think you should wait until your mind is free from impure thoughts to pray only help Satan, who is already far too strong. Waiting to pray is an unchristian approach to prayer. It’s a teaching that comes from the devil.

In order to keep yourself from believing these kinds of wrong ideas, you must follow David’s example in this psalm. Even after David admitted his terrible sin with Bathsheba, he didn’t run away from God. He didn’t say what Peter foolishly said while in the boat: “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” (Luke 5:8). Instead, David trusted in God’s mercy and began to pray, “Lord, even though I am a sinner, have pity on me.” The time when you feel your sins the most is exactly the time when you most need to pray.

From Luther’s “Faith Alone” Devotions

>Divine Service 11th February [White.]
Readings : Psalm 50: 1-6
Old Testament: Exodus 34:29-35
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:1-16
Gospel: Mark 9:2-9.

9am Our Saviour Lowood HC
The Transfiguration of our Lord
Hymns: 357, 37, 47, 152, 287, 528.

>Divine Service 14th January [Black]
Readings: Psalm 51: 1-19
Old Testament: Joel 2:12-19
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:20b,-6:10
Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6,16-21.

7pm Trinity Marburg HC

Ash Wednesday
Hymns: 431, 310, 153, 157, 281, 513.

>Divine Service 18th February [Violet]
Readings: Psalm 25:1-10
Old Testament: Genesis 22:1-18
Epistle: James 12:1-18
Gospel: Mark 1:9-15.

9am Trinity Marburg HC
1st Sunday in Lent
Hymns: 57, 195, 405, 197, 292, 384.

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

> **PARISH MEETING RIGHT AFTER SERVICE ON SUNDAY THE 18TH OF FEBRUARY AT MARBURG**

> Mid week Bible Study commences on Thursday the 15th of February at 10am at Pastor's house in the nice air conditioning with a bring and share morning tea.

> Anyone wanting information on Catechetical studies for their children please contact Vicar Jake Zabel on the phone number below.

Vicar JAKE can be contacted on 0458251132.

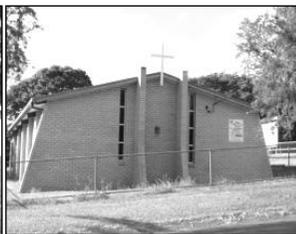
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