

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

3rd Sunday in Lent 4th March 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.

John 2:13-25.

Hymns: 270, 216, 188, 504, 289, 75.

Introit: Psalm 19.

- P The heavens declare the glory of God,
C **and the expanse above displays what His hands have made.**
P One day pours out information to the next,
C **and one night announces knowledge to the next.**
P There is no talking, there are no words,
C **and their voices are not audible.**
P Their measuring line has gone out through all the earth, and their messages to the end of the world.
C **He has set a tent in them for the sun,**
P and it comes out of its bridal-chamber like a bridegroom.
C **It rejoices like a champion to run its course.**
P It rises from one end of the heavens, its turning point is at their edges,
C **and nothing is hidden from its heat.**
P The Instruction of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul.
C **The Reminder of the LORD is reliable, making the simple person wise.**
P The Directions of the LORD are correct, making the heart rejoice.
C **The Commandment of the LORD is pure, giving light to the eyes.**
P The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever.
C **The Decisions of the LORD are true and altogether righteous.**
P They are more desirable than gold, even much pure gold.
Moreover,
C **they are sweeter than honey, than honey from honeycomb.**
P They also warn your servant.

C There is great reward in keeping them.

P Who understands his errors?

C Declare me exempt from hidden faults!

P Restrain Your servant also from presumptuous sins! Let them not have control over me!

C Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great rebellion.

All: May the words from my mouth and the thinking of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my Rock, and my Redeemer!

Collect: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast to the unchangeable truth of Your word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WASTED OR NOT?

Read Mark 4:3-11.

And while He was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper as He was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over His head. (Mark 14:3)

My grandmother once gave me a tiny jar of expensive solid perfume from Greece. To get the fragrant ointment out, you had to reach in with your smallest finger. But Mary's stone flask would have had a long, thin neck, and the only way to reach the ointment was to break the alabaster. Mary didn't hesitate, For Jesus? Anything.

That wasn't the attitude of some people watching, though. Judas in particular complained. Why waste something so costly on Jesus? If you winced just now, you see the problem.

There will always be people who think that anything costly is wasted on God—and they're not thinking just about ointment. "Why waste your life on Jesus?" they ask. "You only live once. Make money party hard,

and enjoy your life. Jesus asks too much of His followers. Don't break your heart, don't waste your love, on a God like that,"

They are right to say He asks a lot of us. **"Forgive and you will be forgiven,"** He says. **'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven'** (see Luke 6:37; Matthew 5:44-45). And finally, **"Come, follow Me—all the way to the cross. For "if anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also"** (John I 2:26a).

Loving Jesus is costly yes, but it is worth it. For this is the One who broke--not an alabaster flask, but His own body, in order to rescue us from death and all evil. Who can calculate the love involved in that sacrifice? Mary's flask is nothing to it. **"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you"** (John 15:13-14).

This world is bound to break our hearts. It's impossible to escape that fate when sin and death are in the picture. But if they must break, let's not waste it. Let's make that sacrifice at the feet of the One who loves us,

THE PRAYER: Dear God, when my heart is breaking, be close to me. Use that situation for my help and Your glory. Amen.

>Divine Service 11th March [Violet]
Readings: Psalm 107:1-9
Old Testament: Numbers 21:4-9
Epistle: Ephesians 2:1-10
Gospel: John 3:14-21.

9am Trinity Marburg HC
4th Sunday in Lent
Hymns: 347, 368, 271, 54, 295, 437.
Marburg AGM after service.

>Divine Service 18th March [Violet.]
Readings : Psalm 119:9-16
Old Testament: Jeremiah 31:31-34
Epistle: Hebrews 5:1-10
Gospel: Mark 10:32-45.

9am St John's Minden HC
5th Sunday in Lent
LSB Hymns: 435, 430, 847, 857, 619, 895.

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

>Divine Service 25th March [RED]
Readings: Psalm 31:9-16
Old Testament: Zechariah 9:9-12
Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11
Gospel: John 12: 20-43.

9am Our Saviour Lowood HC
PALM SUNDAY
Hymns: 169, 86, 306, 361, 292, 511.

> Next Mid week Bible Study Thursday the 15th of March at 10am at Pastor's house 9 Macadamia Dr Lowood in the nice air conditioning with a bring and share morning tea.

> Confirmation Class is on every Friday afternoon at MARBURG 4.15pm to start by 4.30 except School Holidays.

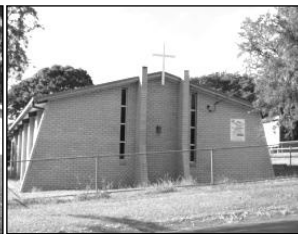
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