

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

6th Sunday of Easter 6th May 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 15. 9-17

Hymns: 844, 556 1st 5 vs' + v10, 779, 542, 619, 922.

Introit: Psalm 98.

P Sing a new song to the LORD! For He has done wonderful things.

C His right hand and His holy arm have gained salvation for Him.

P The LORD has made His salvation known.

C He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

P He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the family of Israel.

C All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

P Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth!

C Break forth, shout for joy, and sing praise!

P Sing praise to the LORD with a lyre,

C with a lyre and the sound of music,

P with trumpets and the sound of a horn!

C Shout joyfully before the King, the LORD!

P Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,

C the world and those who live in it!

P Let the rivers clap their hands,

C and let the mountains shout for joy together

P before the LORD! For He is coming to judge the earth.

All He will judge the world righteously and the peoples justly.

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.**

1st Reading: Acts 10:34-48.

Epistle: 1 John 5:1-8.

Gospel: John 15:9-17.

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 the sermon is the Gospel heard before, John 15:9-17.

**9 “As the Father has loved Me, so I have loved you. Remain in My love!
10 If you keep My Commandments, you will remain in My love, as I have
also kept My Father’s Commandments and remain in His love. 11 I have
told you these things so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may
be complete. 12 This is My Commandment, that you should love one
another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this, to lay
down his life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you continue to do
what I command you. 15 I no longer call you ‘servants,’ because a servant
does not know what his master is doing. However, I have called you
‘friends’ because I have made known to you everything that I have heard
from My Father. 16 You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and
appointed you that you may go and bear fruit, and that your fruit may
remain, so that the Father may give you whatever you ask for in My name.
17 This is what I command you: Love one another!**

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

Amen.

LOVING THE WORLD

Do not love the world or anything in the world.

If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1 John 2.15

Being in the world, seeing the world, and experiencing the world are all different from loving the world, just as having sin and feeling sin are both different from loving sin. Abraham certainly had property, but he didn't love it. He recognized that God made him a steward over these possessions, and he managed them accordingly. David was a mighty king but didn't demand his own way. Rather, he governed according to God's will. For he said of himself, *"I dwell with you as an alien, a stranger, as all my fathers were"* (Psalm 39:12). In other words, he considered himself to be a traveller, merely a guest on this earth. David didn't rule his kingdom according to his own will, but according to God's will and for God's honour. So he didn't love the world.

But when someone oppresses and troubles the poor and uses other people's possessions as their own, then we see someone loving the world. This is unjust. Christ doesn't take us out of the world. Rather, he leaves us in the world after baptism so that others will be strengthened and encouraged by our example. So

anyone who flees the world lives in a godless way.

Christ says that the Holy Spirit "*will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin*" (John 16:8). The world is filled with people who have turned away from God and know nothing about God. They have turned instead to what God has created and have used his creation for their own honour.

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN

The wise man has eyes in his head, while the fool walks in the darkness; but I came to realize that the same fate overtakes them both.

Ecclesiastes 2:14

I've noticed that the same kinds of things happen to both wise and foolish people. Both end up making mistakes. Nevertheless, wisdom is better than foolishness. You may be familiar with the expression "*If you want to play chess, don't hide your eyes in your pocket.*" That means you not only have to know the game well, but you also have to be an observant and careful player. The author of Ecclesiastes says here, "*The wise man has eyes in his head.*" In other words, wise people aren't merely clever managers, but they're also alert, conscientious, and watchful. They see how things ought: to be done even though they can never assure the outcome. Foolish people, on the other hand, don't use the eyes in their heads, because they let themselves be swept up by boldness and audacity. In the end, the affairs of both appear to be determined by coincidence and luck. In reality, God directs everything. Neither wisdom nor boldness determines how things will turn out.

Both wise and foolish plans sometimes fail and sometimes succeed. But God doesn't want us to base our rules for living on whether or not something is successful. That's because what God has created is in his hands, not ours. He allows us to use these things, but he accomplishes what he wants through us. It's pointless to add anything to what God wants or to try to determine how God should do things. In this way, God teaches us not to rely on our own wisdom and insight, but to deal with matters as they come along. If they don't turn out well, then we should simply commit them to God.

Faith Alone

Martin Luther.

Divine Service 13th May [White]

Readings: Psalm 47

1st Reading Acts 1:1-11

Epistle: Ephesians 1:15-23

Gospel: Luke 24:44-53.

9am Our Saviour Lowood HC

7th Sunday of Easer

CELEBRATING ACCENTION of our LORD

Hymns: 107, 169, 114, 221, 295, 113.

>Divine Service 20th May [Red]

Readings: Psalm 139:1-16

Old Testament: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Epistle: Acts 2:1-21

Gospel: John 15:26, 27; 16:4-15.

9am Trinity Marburg HC

The Day of PENTECOST

Hymns: 116, 121, 135, 119, 291, 437.

>Divine Service 27th May [White]

Readings : Psalm 29

Old Testament: Isaiah 6:1-8

Epistle: Acts 2:14a; 22-36

Gospel: John 3:1-17.

9am Our Saviour Lowood HC

The Holy Trinity

LSB Hymns : 501, 116, 271, 330, 287, 643.

> Next Mid week Bible Study Thursday the 10th of May at 10am at the Lowood Church with a bring and share morning tea.

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

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

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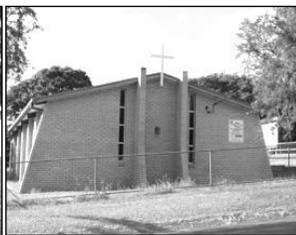
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