

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

3rd Sunday after Pentecost 10th June 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 3.20-35.

Hymns: 339, 204, 384, 195, 287, 159.

Introit: Psalm 130.

P Out of the depths,

C I have cried to You, O LORD.

P LORD, hear my voice!

C Let Your ears be attentive to the sound of my pleas for mercy!

P If You, LORD, should observe iniquities,

C O LORD, who would stand?

P Nevertheless, with You there is forgiveness,

C so that You may be feared.

P I have been waiting for the LORD. My soul has been waiting,

C and I have been putting my hope in His Word.

P My soul waits for the LORD more than watchmen for the morning,

C more than watchmen for the morning.

P O Israel, hope in the LORD!

C For with the LORD there is mercy,

P and with Him there is very great redemption,

All and He Himself will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Collect: Almighty and eternal God, Your Son Jesus triumphed over the prince of demons and freed us from bondage to sin. Help us to stand firm against every assault of Satan, and enable us always to do Your will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Old Testament: Genesis 3:8-15.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1.

Gospel: Mark 3:20-35.

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, Mark 3:20-35.

20 Then Jesus came into the house. Again the crowd gathered, so that Jesus and those who were with Him were not even able to eat bread.

21 When His family heard about it, they came out to take charge of Him. For they were saying, “He has gone out of His mind!” **22** The scribes who had come down from Jerusalem began to say, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and, “It is by the ruler of the demons that He is driving out the demons.”

23 Jesus called them to come to Him and spoke to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan? **24** If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. **25** If a family is divided against itself, that family will not be able to stand. **26** If Satan has risen up against himself and has been divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. **27** Rather, no one can go into the strong man’s house and plunder his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he will plunder his house. **28** Truly, I tell you, all the sins that the sons of men commit will be forgiven, and all the blasphemies that they utter. **29** However, anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven, but is guilty of an eternal sin.”

30 He said this because they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

31 Just then His mother and His brothers came. They stood outside and sent someone to Him to ask Him to come out. **32** A crowd was sitting around Jesus, and they told Him, “Look! Your mother, Your brothers, and Your sisters are outside, looking for You.”

33 He answered them, “Who are My mother and My brothers?” **34** He looked around at those who sat in a circle around Him, and said, “Look! Here are My mother and My brothers. **35** Whoever does the will of God is My brother and sister and mother.”

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

Listen to the Word of the LORD

‘Our bones are dry, and our hope is being lost. We have been completely cut off,’ records Ezekiel (37:11). There is nothing for us but the grave. All around us is death, despair, and hopelessness. We see this in the world around us, in our personal lives, and in the church. Today we have superior means of communication, yet we seem to have less and less worthwhile things to say. We have more food than ever before, yet an incredible amount of people the world over are starving. We have more education than ever before, yet one has to marvel at the stupidity often shown by so-called academics.

Never before has Western civilisation had to work so little for so much. The

result has been to exchange the problem of overwork for the problem of leisure. Nothing but bones that are very dry. In our personal lives the dry bones continue to show up as inability to conquer a problem or to live with it, inability to find real satisfaction in our work, or even in the inability to find the right woman for a wife or man for a husband. The dry bones have had our best efforts. The bones still stay dry. We give up hope. When that hope is no longer alive, when we have tried with all our might to make the dead come alive and it refuses resurrection, we get to know what bones are like when they are very dry.

The life of the church too, can often seem like a valley full of bones, bones that are very dry. Since the time of the Reformation the church has lavished praise on the doctrine of the priesthood of all the baptised. In practice it has often meant that each man is now free to misinterpret the Bible in his own way, when what this doctrine really means is that each member of the church has the freedom to share Christ with his neighbour, to “extol the wonderful deeds of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light,” (1 Peter 2:9).

These are some of the dry bones we find in the world, in our personal lives, and in the church. Yet God raises a significant question to Ezekiel, “Son of man, can these bones return to life?” This question leaves us with only one answer, “Lord GOD, You Yourself know.” That is what God wants us to say, “You Yourself know,” instead of, “I just don’t know.” For in saying, “You Yourself know,” we begin to taste hope and victory because God does know.

Thus, the LORD God says through Ezekiel, “Dry bones, listen to the Word of the LORD!” (37:4). With all the difficulties we face in this world, our protection must be to always listen to the Word of the LORD. We must never grow lazy in doing this. The challenge we all face is that the calling of the world to listen instead to its words, deceptive as they are, is very powerful, and many find themselves taken captive through these words. When this happens, there is no longer any hearing of God’s Word, and no desire to worship Him.

The church, and its wonderful gifts, take a back seat. God’s places of worship, where He offers free forgiveness of sins through Word and Sacrament ministry, soon fade away, and disappear. We see this all around us, as church membership gets smaller and smaller, with less interest shown in the activities of the church. It is so easy to find time for everything else, but nigh impossible to find a little quiet time with God. No wonder there are many dry bones. “Dry bones listen to the Word of the LORD!”

>>Divine Service 17th June [Green] 9am St John's Minden HC
 Readings : Psalm 1 4th Sunday after Pentecost
 Old Testament: Ezekiel 17:22-24 Hymns : 577, 500, 601, 507, 618, 923.
 Epistle: 2nd Corinthians 5:1-17 Bible study Augsburg C 4.
 Gospel: Mark 4:26-34.

>> 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 24th June [Green] 9am Our Saviour Lowood HC
 Readings: Psalm 124 5th Sunday after Pentecost
 Old Testament : Job 38:1-11 Bible study Augsburg C5.
 Epistle: 2 Corinthians: 6:1-13 Hymns:578, 524,341, 301, 289, 616.
 Gospel: Mark 4:35-41.

>>Divine Service 1st July [RED] 10am Trinity Marburg HC
 Readings: Psalm 96 3rd Sunday after Pentecost
 Old Testament: Isaiah 62:1-7 Mission Sunday
 Epistle: Romans 10:11-17 Hymns: [To Be Announced.]
 Gospel: Luke 24:44-53. Sunday School Children to sing.

>>BIBLE STUDIES;

The AUGSBURG CONFESSION -- directly after Church every Sunday -- 1hour studies only -- for everyone, confirmation students and up; -- Bring your Bible. -- quick cuppa and biscuit.

>>Next mid week Bible Study Thursday 21st June at Lowood 10am.

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

>> Mission Sunday the 1st of July, join us with a bring and share lunch and Christian fellowship with our brothers and sisters from up on the Downs.

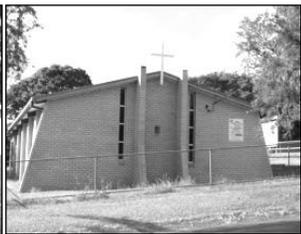
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