

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

**Harvest Festival 17th Sunday after Pentecost 16th September 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 9:14–29

**Hymns: 156, 159, 241, 336, 283, 409.**

**Introit: Psalm 116:1-9.**

P I love the LORD, because

**C He hears my voice, my plea for mercy.**

P Because He has turned His ear to me,

**C I shall call on Him as long as I live.**

P The cords of death had entangled me. The distresses of Sheol had taken hold of me.

**C I was encountering affliction and anguish.**

P However, I kept on calling on the name of the LORD:

**C “O LORD, I pray, save my life!”**

P The LORD is gracious and righteous.

**C Our God is compassionate.**

P The LORD protects simple people.

**C When I was weak, He saved me.**

P Return to your resting place, O my soul!

**C For the LORD has been good to you.**

P For You have delivered my soul from death,

**C my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.**

**All: I shall walk before the LORD in the lands of the living.**

**Collect:** Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defence in every need, continue to preserve Your Church in safety, govern her by Your goodness' and bless her with Your peace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Old Testament: Isaiah 50:1-10.**

**Epistle: James 3:1-12.**

**Gospel: Mark 9:14-29.**

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

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

Dear friends in Christ,

Peace be with you.

### **Commendable Jealousy**

***17. His disciples remembered that it was written: Zeal for Thy house will consume Me.***

Common everyday usage in our language makes it permissible to speak of a commendable jealousy and of an evil jealousy. Although not only jealousy but also pride or arrogance is a vice of the devil, still it is correct to say in our tongue: “This is laudable pride, and that is evil pride.” Or: “This is good chastity, and that is bad chastity.” Or: “This is good humility, and that is evil humility.” For instance, I may be possessed of a good and divine pride, commanded by God and demanded of me and all others. This says: “I must not give way to the devil; I will not look at the devil and follow him.” Such an attitude stems from spiritual pride. It was demonstrated by the dear martyrs, who told the tyrants: “I shall not look at you and thus deny my God and Lord.” This is really praiseworthy pride! And if I were to say in a tone of humility, instead of pride: “Dear pope, dear bishops, I shall gladly do what you require,” my humility would be demonic and accursed, if at the same time I claim to be governed by the Word of God. Such humility would be worthless, for you would be showing humility in a situation that calls for pride. But it is a demonstration of a laudable humility when I say with gratitude toward God: “Thy will be done. My dear Lord Christ, do with me as Thou dost please. I shall gladly bear it.”....

Just as spiteful jealousy is a despicable vice, so proper zeal is a precious and noble virtue. It is demonstrated when one, from true love, deplores that another commits a wrong and goes astray. Then such a person will say: “Oh, I feel so very, very sorry for him. I begrudge him that. It angers me that he fell into this sin and shame. When I see a

beloved person doing evil, I am saddened.” To begrudge and not to begrudge are two different matters; ordinarily, one is good and the other bad. However, here the order is reversed: not to begrudge a person becomes a vile and shameful vice, and to begrudge a person becomes a virtue which inheres in God alone and in the hearts of those especially moved by God. For this deep grief over a good friend’s sin and shame, this begrudging of such sin and shame, still indicates the presence of a divine spark in the human heart....

A similar situation may arise between friend and friend. Such begrudging or friendly jealousy or loving anger is a merciful, a loving jealousy, which says: “Alas, I do not like to hear or see that anyone else lives to his own hurt and shame.” I cannot regard that as hatred; for it is good, and is motivated by love. Where there is love, there is no room for hatred. ...

That is the type of zeal Christ the Lord, too, displays in our text. His anger does not arise from hatred; it springs from a friendly love toward God, who had founded this temple to His own honor and for the ministration of His Word, that people might be instructed in church in the ways of salvation and in the worship of God. And now when Christ sees the very opposite; when He beholds open violation of God’s commands, the use of the sacrifices to seduce the people for whose sake He Himself came to earth and became incarnate; when He witnesses the heinous corruption of souls and this abomination and desecration of His Father’s house—then He is deeply grieved. He grows indignant and jealous. A saddened zeal comes over Him when He sees His church, His cathedral, desecrated and misused this way. For He loves God; and He is concerned about the preservation of the divine Word, solicitous about the poor people who are thus being robbed of their salvation. He wants to say: “I begrudge the beautiful and fine temple this disgraceful abuse, and I begrudge the people the damnation into which they are being led.”

AE 22, pp232-235. Luther, M. (1999, c1957). *Vol. 22: Luther's works, vol. 22 : Sermons on the Gospel of St. John: Chapters 1-4.*

>>Divine Service 23rd September [Green]

Readings: Psalm 54

Old Testament: Jeremiah 11:18-20

Epistle: James 3: 13-4:10

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37.

9am Trinity Marburg HC

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Hymns: 57, 356, 239, 500, 282, 507.

>>Divine Service 30th September [Green]

Readings: Psalm 104:27-35

Old Testament: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

Epistle: James 5:1-20

Gospel: Mark 9:38-50.

9am ST JOHNS MINDEN HC

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Hymns: 501, 505, 839, 877, 617, 922.

>>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 7th October [Green]

Readings: Psalm 128

Old Testament : Genesis 2:18-25

Epistle: Hebrews 2:1-18

Gospel: Mark 10:2-16.

9am Trinity Marburg HC

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Hymns:361, 344, 365, 169, 283, 144.

Bible Study bring and share.

>>Next mid week Bible Study on Proverbs is on Thursday 20th of September at Lowood 10am.

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

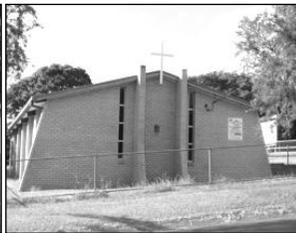
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