

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

4th Sunday in Advent 23rd December 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.

Luke 1:39-56

HYMNS: 21, 2, 431, 450, 287, 19.

INTROIT: - PSALM 80:1-7,

P Listen, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock!

C **You, who are enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth.**

P Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh!

C **stir up Your strength, and come to save us!**

P Restore us, O God,

C **and cause Your face to shine, that we may be saved!**

P O LORD, God of hosts,

C **how long will You smoulder in anger against the prayers of Your people?**

P You have fed them with the bread of tears,

C **and You have given them a third of a measure of tears to drink.**

P You cause us to have strife with our neighbours,

C **and our enemies are laughing among themselves.**

All: O God of hosts, restore us, and cause Your face to shine, that we may be saved!

COLLECT: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **AMEN.**

READINGS: Old Testament, Micah 5:2-5a.

Epistle: Hebrews 10:5-10.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-56.

**PRAYER
FOR PASTORS AND HEARERS**

O JESUS CHRIST, Son of the living God, our only mediator and redeemer, You have been exalted to the right hand of the Father. You send pastors and teachers of Your Word. Through their work, You gather the church among us to Yourself. I humbly beg You, true God with the Father and the Holy Spirit, that You guide Your ministers in the way of truth and turn the hearts of their hearers to the true obedience of faith. There is no occupation of human life, no class of people, that is so subject to the hatred and plots of Satan as the ecclesiastical ministry of the Word. Therefore, protect the members of this ministry with the shield of grace and furnish them with patience so Satan cannot trap them.

Grant Your ministers the necessary knowledge and pious diligence in all activities so they first learn from You before presuming to teach others (James 3:1). Govern and enlighten their hearts by Your Spirit so they preach nothing other than Your Word. Grant that they shepherd the flock committed to them (1 Peter 5:2), a flock purchased and redeemed by Your precious blood (Acts 20:28). Make their motivation true and sincere love, not covetousness or ambition. May they shepherd the flock in thought, word, and deed. May they shepherd by the prayer of their soul, by the exhortation of the Word, and by example as they follow in the footsteps of the one to whom the care of the Lord's flock was commended three times (John 21:15). Rouse Your ministers to keep watch over the souls entrusted to them because they will give account for them at the last judgment (Hebrews 13:17). Whatever they advise as they preach the Word, may they first be diligent in this matter in their own lives so they do not labor in vain to arouse others. Whatever good works Your ministers encourage in others, may they first be zealous in these works by the fervour of the Spirit. May they first proclaim by their works whatever actions they exhort by their words.

Send forth into Your harvest faithful workers so they may gather a great harvest of saints (Matthew 9:38). Open the hearts of the hearers so they may receive the seed of the Word with the holy obedience of faith (Act 16:14). Grant to these hearers Your grace so they may guard the holy deposit of the Word with a pure heart. With patience, may they bring forth abundant fruit (Luke 8:15). May they hear attentively, may they hear carefully, may they hear fruitfully—otherwise the Word that is preached to them, because it has not been mixed with faith, will judge them on the last day (John 12:48). Show forth the express promise of Your grace: Your Word will not return to You void (Isaiah 55:11). Grant that the labour of the one who plants and the one who waters may be blessed (1 Corinthians 3:7). Grant Your protection so the infernal raven may not dig up the holy seed of Your Word from the field

of people's hearts, nor the thorn of worldly pleasures and riches constrain it, nor the hardness of stone prevent it from bearing fruit (Matthew 13:4ff.; Luke 8:12ff.). Water that seed with the heavenly dew of Your grace, poured out from above, so the most abundant harvest of good works may spring forth. Bind together the hearts of pastors and hearers in the closest bond of love so they contend together for one another in prayer and encourage one another through their care. **AMEN.**

>> CHRISTMAS EVE HYMNS & CAROLS SERVICE

Divine Service 24th December [White] 7pm Our Saviour Lowood
Various Christmas Story Readings Celebrate Christmas Eve in Song and Story
Hymns: 34, 624, 630, 33, 632, 29, 629.

>> Divine Service 25th December [White.] 8AM Trinity Marburg HC
Readings: Psalm 98 Christmas Day, Glory Be to God on High!
Old Testament: 62:10-12 Hymns: 627, 29, 322, 22, 284, 466.
Epistle: Titus 3:4-7
Gospel: Luke2:1-20

>>Divine Service 30th December [White] 9am St John's Minden LR
Readings: Psalm 111 1st Sunday after Christmas
Old Testament: Exodus 13:1-3, 11-15
Epistle: Colossians 3:12-17 Hymns:798, 386, 367, 332, 924.
Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

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

>> PASTOR WILL BE SERVICING GREENWOOD WITH HC ON JANUARY 27th AT 9am. PARISH SERVICES WILL BE LR ON THAT DAY.

>>Next mid week Bible is on Thursday 17th January 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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