

MARBURG PARISH OF THE AELC
TRINITY MARBURG, ST JOHN'S MINDEN, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD

13 October 2019
Bulletin for the 18th Sunday after Pentecost

HYMNS: 520 241 71 16

INTROIT: Praise the LORD! I shall give thanks to the LORD with all my heart, in the company of upright people and in the congregation.

The works of the LORD are great. They are studied by all who delight in them.

His work is splendid and majestic, and **His righteousness endures for ever.**

He has caused His miraculous acts to be remembered. The LORD is gracious and compassionate.

He has given food to those who fear Him. He will remember His Covenant for ever.

He has shown His powerful works to His people by giving to them the inheritance of the nations.

The works of His hands are faithful and just. All His Precepts are trustworthy.

They are firm for ever and ever. They have been made in truth and uprightness.

He has sent redemption to His people. He has ordained His Covenant for ever. His name is holy and awesome.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. All who observe His Precepts have good understanding. His praise endures for ever.

Psalm 111

COLLECT: Almighty God, You show mercy to Your people in all their troubles. Grant us always to recognise Your goodness, give thanks for Your compassion, and praise Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Ruth 1:1-19a Naomi and Ruth

2 Timothy 2:1-13 If we died with Him, we will also live with Him

Luke 17:11-19 Healing of the ten lepers

SERMON: Luke 17:11-19 Your faith has saved you

Jesus Loves Me, This I Know

The Bible is a love story: God is love. You are the beloved.

This is particularly astonishing when we consider how unlovely and how unlovable we are.

The Bible tells us about this in the story of our rebellion. It unfolds the depth of our wretchedness. It tells the history of our first parents, Adam and Eve, who took hold of and ate the only thing in the world marked with the sign "Do not eat! - God."

That disobedience was death, and that disobedience and death continues in us. We are born in a state of rebellion against God, enemies of His kingdom. We deserve His rejection. We deserve His anger.

But God doesn't give us what we deserve. We get, instead, His love.

The love of God is much more than a feeling and affection. Because we are in a state of rebellion, God's love is a rescuing love. God's love is a seeking love. It is a bleeding and dying love. His love has work to do: work to make you right with Him, work to cover your rebellion.

This is why Jesus was born. The very Son of God became a human so that He could later be found bleeding and dying on a Roman cross: God forsaken by God for you. Never was there love like this. Never was such a sacrifice made in all the history of history.

God took upon Himself the form of man - our humanity - so that He may dress Himself in our rebellion and take the punishment that we deserve, all so that we could live forever with Him. That really happened. No matter what else happens next, this matters most: the death of Jesus is the most significant event in the history of the world, and it is the most significant event in the history of our life (and in our death). The cross of Jesus is the most important thing to know, to believe, and to understand.

All of the great love stories of the Bible are the echoes and reverberations, mirroring or growing out of, the great love story of God and that cross, that death, that blood shed for us. That Jesus - truly and fully God and truly and fully man - our God, in your place, suffering, dying because He loves us.

The apostle John says it like this: "*This is what love is: not that we have loved God, but that He has loved us and has sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins*" (1 John 4:10). John was copying Jesus, who said a few years earlier, "*For*

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

“Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.” This is the simple truth we teach our children. “Jesus loves me.” This is the foundational truth of the Bible, the bedrock of our faith, and it is also the height of our wisdom.

We do not need to move beyond this simple truth, yet so many books on discipleship and Christian maturity want to go beyond the Gospel, beyond the cross, beyond the simple truth, beyond the faith of a child. “The Gospel for the unbeliever; the Law for the believer” seems to be the motto of the day. Rather, let’s do the opposite! Let’s consider together how it is that God can love us sinners. Let’s meditate on the mysteries of God as our Brother and our Friend. Let’s fix our minds and our hearts on Jesus, who is both the author and finisher, the beginning and the end, of our faith.

Christian maturity is comprised of this: knowing the love of God in Christ and living in that love. This is how Paul saw it. In a mysterious, surprising, and delightful text, Paul tells the Ephesian Christians what he prays for them, that they would know what is unknowable! Here’s how he says it: “[I pray] in order that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, and that you may be firmly rooted and established in love. I ask that, with all God’s holy people, you will be able to grasp what the width, length, height, and depth is, and that you will know the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:17-19)

Paul knows that it is impossible for our weak and rebellious minds to know the love of Christ. Still he prays that we would know the unknowable. This is the mystery of the Christian faith. We know what cannot be known, what cannot be comprehended: That Jesus loves us. That God has died for us. That the Creator is our Rescuer and our Friend. That He lives with us now, and we shall live with Him forever.

Welcome to all worshipping with us today! May God bless our worship of Him by His serving of us!

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Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at www.aelc.org.au.

Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.

COMING SERVICES

20 October 19 Pentecost	27 October Reformation Sunday	3 November All Saints’ Day
8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am MINDEN LR	9.30am OAK LR 10.00am HC MARBURG AELC Service and Children’s Picnic	8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.00am LOWOOD LR
Harvest Thanksgiving		Harvest Thanksgiving
8.30am OAK HC 10.00am GRN HC		8.30am TMBA HC (Baptism) 10.30am AUB HC
Sunday, 20 October		
READINGS: Genesis 32:22-30; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8 OAK & GRN: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 12:13-21		
HYMNS: TMBA & AUB: 400 823 425 458 OAK & GRN: 560 563 452 333 85 642 MINDEN: 400 274 425 458		
Sunday, 27 October		
READINGS: Revelation 14:6-7; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36		
HYMNS: 191 195 324 (368 285 [284 if needed]) 138		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, 27 October, AELC service and Children’s Picnic at Marburg. Please bring something along something for a shared lunch and place your collection in envelopes marked back to your own congregation. Loose offering will go to the Marburg Parish treasury.

MARBURG PARISH

Bible Study, Thursday 24 October, 10.00am, at Lowood.