

THE AUSTRALIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

27 October 2019
Reformation Day

HYMNS: 191 195 324 368 285 [284 if needed] 138

INTROIT: God is our Refuge and Strength, a very present help in troubles.

Therefore we shall not be afraid, though the earth quakes, and the mountains totter into the midst of the seas; though its waters roar and foam, and the mountains shake with their raging.

There is a river, the water-channels of which make the city of God rejoice, the holy place, the sanctuary of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her, she will not totter; God will help her when the morning appears.

Nations rage, kingdoms totter; He utters His voice, the earth melts.

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Come; see some of the works of the LORD, the awesome things that He has brought on the earth!

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow, and cuts the spear in pieces; He burns the chariots with fire.

“Stop, and know that I am God; I shall be exalted among the nations, I shall be exalted in the earth.”

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Psalm 46

COLLECT: Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

READINGS: Revelation 14:6-7 Worship Him who created all things!

Romans 3:19-28 A righteousness that comes from God.

John 8:31-36 The truth will set you free.

SERMON: John 8:31-36 Truth and Freedom in Christ's Word

³¹ Therefore, Jesus said to those Jews who had become believers in Him, “If you remain in My Word, you are truly My disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

³³ They answered Him, “We are Abraham's descendants and have never been in slavery to anyone. How do You mean, ‘You will be made free?’”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I tell you that everyone who keeps on committing sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the family for ever. The son remains for ever. ³⁶ Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you will certainly be free.”

The Lord's Supper has always been seen as a sign of unity between those who commune together at the Lord's table (1 Cor. 10:17). When Christians partake of the Lord's Supper in a church body that has a confession of faith, they thereby declare that they believe that they are one in faith with those who commune with them. Since people cannot honestly hold two differing confessions at the same time, they cannot honestly commune with those whose confession is in conflict with their own. If any do this nevertheless, they deny their own confession, and so deny Christ Himself (2 Cor. 6:14-18). **We ask visitors who are communicant members in a church not in fellowship with the AELC, or are not familiar with the AELC Statement of Faith, to refrain from communing today. If you have questions, please speak with the pastor after service.**

We are made Righteous by the Perfect Obedience of Jesus Christ

On October 31st, 1517, a young, courageous, Spirit-filled and Bible-imbued monk by the name of Dr. Martin Luther approached the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany. There he fearlessly nailed 95 Theses or Statements that proved to be the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation. He listed 95 statements that contained false teachings that were openly taught by the dominant church of his day. He had no visions of beginning a new church. He simply wanted his church reformed. He wanted God's Word and the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ presented to the people in all its truth and purity.

The chief doctrine in the Bible is that we sinners are justified or declared righteous and therefore saved in the sight of God, not by our own deeds and righteousness, but only by the perfect righteousness of one man, the God-Man, Jesus Christ. We read in Romans 5:19 that “*For as, through the disobedience of the one man, the many became sinners, so also through the obedience of the One Man, the many will become righteous.*”

While these words of Paul were a real shock to many in Paul's day, so also they were a shock to many in Luther's day and ours! In the days of Paul, the Pharisees were considered to be the epitome of personal righteousness. How could a person's godliness exceed that of the Pharisees who dedicated their lives to keeping God's commandments? They were so strict that Jesus even spoke of them as tithing seeds like mint, dill, and cumin (Matt. 23:23). Can't you just see the Pharisees counting those tiny seeds that they had just harvested from their garden as they said: "One for the Lord and nine for me?" And yet Jesus says that our righteousness has to exceed that of the Pharisees if we ever hope to get to heaven by what we do.

Dr. Martin Luther proclaims the truth of the Bible that the only way you or I or any other sinner will ever receive the forgiveness of our sins and the sure hope of heaven is by God's grace through faith in the saving righteousness of Jesus Christ! The righteousness of "only One Person" in all of history is able to save you and me and any sinner from sin, death, Satan and hell! That "One Person" is Jesus Christ. He lived a perfect life for you and me and all sinners. Then He offered the sacrifice of His perfect life into death on the cross to remove the guilt and satisfy the demands of Divine Justice for all our sins.

God now credits the completely righteous life of Jesus Christ to all who are led by the Holy Spirit to believe in Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. Now, when God looks at you and me and our fellow Christians, He no longer sees any of our sins. He sees only the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ. God clothes us with the saving robe of Christ's righteousness in the water of Holy Baptism. He keeps us covered with Christ's garment of salvation through our hearing of His Word and the reception of the Lord's Supper. For the sake of Jesus Christ, God does not condemn us for our sins but declares us righteous and headed for heaven.

To remind us of this saving truth, Dr. Martin Luther invites us to join him in praying: "*Dear Lord, I am a poor sinner, be gracious to me, and judge me not according to my works, but according to Your grace and mercy, which You have promised and prepared in Christ.*" Our Spirit-given faith that trusts 100% in Christ's perfect righteousness delivers us from the dreadful prospect of an eternity in hell and fills us with the sure and joyful hope of eternal life in heaven.

Welcome to all with us today! May God bless our worship of Him by His serving of us!
 Once again today, we are given the opportunity to reflect on the Biblical teaching that we are justified by faith, apart from the works of the Law.
 Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 46333604 or 0407583922.
 Email him at pziebell@gmail.com
 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

3 November All Saints' Day	10 November 22 Pentecost	17 November 23 Pentecost
8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.00am LOWOOD LR	8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR	8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR
Harvest Thanksgiving	9.00am LOWOOD HC (Baptism)	9.00am MARBURG LR (PZ away)
8.30am TMBA HC (Baptism) 10.30am AUB HC		
Sunday, 3 November		
READINGS: Revelation 7:2-17; 1 John 3:1-3;		Matthew 5:1-12
HARVEST: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15;		Luke 12:13-21
HYMNS: 306 408 308 213		
TMBA: 276 563 560 306 213	AUB: 308 563 560 306 398 213	
Sunday, 10 November		
READINGS: Exodus 3:1-15;		2 Thessalonians 2:1-8, 13-17; Luke 20:27-40
HYMNS: 504 402 489 405		LOWOOD: 277 402 489 171 282 405

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DOWNS PARISH

Thursday, 7 November, 10.00am. Women's Guild at Oakey. (NOTE THE DAY). Opening Devotion: *Julie*. Key Word: *Know*. Item of Interest: *Something beginning with "S"*. We will then go to the Oakey RSL for a breakup lunch. Please bring a small gift.