

**CONGREGATIONS OF THE AELC**  
**TRINITY OAKEY, ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY, BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA**  
**TRINITY MARBURG, ST JOHN'S MINDEN, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD**

12 April 2020

Bulletin for Easter Sunday

**ORDER OF SERVICE WITHOUT HOLY COMMUNION**

THE INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN 88      JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY, *ALLELUIA!*

1  
Jesus Christ is risen today, *Alleluia!*  
Our triumphant holy day. *Alleluia*  
Who did once, upon the cross, *Alleluia*  
Suffer to redeem our loss. *Alleluia*

2  
Hymns of praise then let us sing, *Alleluia!*  
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, *Alleluia!*  
Who endured the cross and grave, *Alleluia!*  
Sinners to redeem and save, *Alleluia!*

3  
But the pains which He endured, *Alleluia!*  
Our salvation have procured, *Alleluia!*  
Now above the sky He's King, *Alleluia!*  
Where the angels ever sing, *Alleluia!*

THE CONFESSION

Dear friends in Christ: Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins, and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.      **He made heaven and earth.**

I said, I will confess my sins to the Lord.      **Then He forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we confess to You that by nature we are sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy and plead for Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Most merciful God, You have given Your only Son to die for us: Have mercy on us, and for His sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins. By Your Holy Spirit increase our knowledge of You and Your will, and make us obedient to Your Word, so that by Your grace we may come to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He has given the right to become the children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.

THE INTROIT

Protect me, O God! For I have taken refuge in You.

I have been saying to the LORD: "You are my Lord. Without You I have nothing good."

As for the holy people who are in the land, they are the excellent people, and all my delight is in them.

Those who run after another god will have many sorrows. I shall not pour out their libations of blood or take up their names on my lips.

O LORD, You are my allotted portion and my cup. You are firmly holding what has been allotted to me.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places. Surely, I have a delightful inheritance.

I shall bless the LORD, who has given me advice. Even during the nights my inmost parts teach me.

I have set the LORD before Me constantly. Because He is at My right hand, I shall not stagger.

Therefore, My heart is glad, and My glory rejoices. My body also will dwell securely. For You will not abandon My soul to Sheol or allow Your Faithful One to see decay.

You make known to Me the path of life. In Your presence there is fullness of joy. At Your right hand there are pleasures for ever.

THE GLORY TO THE FATHER

Glory to the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and will be for evermore. Amen.

THE LORD HAVE MERCY

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

THE GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

Glory to God in the highest.

**And on earth peace, among men with whom He is pleased. We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory, O Lord God, heavenly king, God, the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer. You are seated at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us. For You alone are holy, You alone are Lord, You alone, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE COLLECT

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

The First Reading for \_\_\_\_\_ is written in chapter \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, beginning at verse \_\_\_\_\_.

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING

The Second Reading is written in chapter \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, beginning at verse \_\_\_\_\_.

After the reading: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah.**

THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel is written in the \_\_\_\_\_ chapter of the Gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_, beginning at verse \_\_\_\_.

**Glory be to You, O Lord.**

After the Gospel: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN 95 HE IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN

1	2	3
He is risen, He is risen!	Come with high and holy gladness,	He is risen, He is risen!
Tell it with a joyful voice;	Chant our Lord's triumphant lay	He has opened heaven's gate;
He has burst His three days' prison	Not one touch of twilight sadness	We are free from sin's dark prison,
Let the whole wide world rejoice.	Dims His resurrection day;	Risen to a holier state;
Death is conquered, man is free,	Brightly dawns the radiant east,	Soon a brighter Easter beam
Christ has won the victory.	Brighter far our Easter feast.	On our longing eyes shall stream.

HYMN 113 CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS

1  
Crown Him with many crowns,  
The Lamb upon His throne;  
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns  
All music but its own;  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
Of Him who died for thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless King  
Through all eternity.

2  
Crown Him the Son of God  
Before the world began;  
And ye, who tread where He hath trod,  
Crown Him the Son of man,  
Who every grief hath known  
that wrings the human breast,  
And takes and bears them for His own,  
That all in Him may rest.

3  
Crown Him, the Lord of love;  
Behold His hands and side,  
Those wounds yet visible above  
In beauty glorified:  
All hail, Redeemer, Hail!  
For Thou hast died for me;  
Thy praise shall never, never fail  
Throughout eternity.

4  
Crown Him the Lord of life,  
Who triumphed o'er the grave,  
And rose victorious in the strife  
For those He came to save:  
His glories now we sing  
Who died and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring,  
And lives that death may die.

5  
Crown Him the Lord of heaven,  
Enthroned in worlds above;  
Crown Him the King to whom is given  
The wondrous name of Love:  
Crown Him with many crowns  
As thrones before Him fall;  
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,  
For He is King of all.

THE PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favour, and give us peace. **Amen.**

HYMN 103 I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES

1  
I know that my Redeemer lives;  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my ever-living head.

2  
He lives triumphant from the grave,  
He lives eternally to save;  
He lives all-glorious in the sky,  
He lives exalted there on high.

3  
He lives to bless me with His love,  
He lives to plead for me above,  
He lives my hungry soul to feed,  
He lives to help in time of need.

4  
He lives, my kind, wise, heavenly Friend,  
He lives and loves me to the end,  
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;  
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

5

He lives, and grants me daily breath;  
He lives, and I shall conquer death;  
He lives my mansion to prepare,  
He lives to bring me safely there.

6

He lives, all glory to His name!  
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;  
O the sweet joy this sentences gives:  
I know that my Redeemer lives!

### **WE CELEBRATE EASTER EVERY SUNDAY!**

Easter is the Christian faith, and the Christian faith is Easter! Furthermore, Easter never ends! Really! Yes! We worship on Sundays because Jesus rose from the tomb on Sunday, and so every Sunday service is an Easter service! It doesn't really matter that we worship on Sunday, though: we worship because Jesus rose from the dead.

You might wonder about that. Many churches worship because they think God wants them to, and this is their part in the bargain of salvation. Lutherans understand that salvation is not a bargain - not an agreement between God and man for God to do His part if we do our part, nor a bargain in that it is inexpensive. After all, your salvation and mine cost the life and death of the very Son of God, and that is no bargain, but a ransom beyond imagining.

As for being God's part of some agreement once we do our part, that is so wrong. Salvation is a gift: "*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them,*" (Eph. 2:8-10).

Far from being a contract or agreement with God, an idea shared by far too many who call themselves Christian, salvation is an undeserved kindness from God, poured out upon all so that all who take God at His Word and trust Him to be who He said He is and do what He has promised to do will be saved. The works that people think are their part of the trade are a *response* to the gift, not a thing done to earn, merit, or achieve salvation. Even at that, Paul reminds us in this well-known passage that our good works are God's works, prepared by Him and laid out in our path that we should walk in them. He plans them! He makes them possible! He sets them before us and then enables us to accomplish them. It is like we are doing something, but it is God at work in and through us making us do those things to His glory and then God rewards us for them as though we had done something by our "free" will.

Back to what we were saying, we worship because Jesus rose from the dead. Other holidays are important too, but they are important because of Easter. Christmas, for example, is the celebration of the birth of our Lord. God became one of us. He took on human flesh and blood and human nature and was born like any one of us, so that He would carry the burden of the Law, and having done it without sin, to die for us and rise again.

God being human is nothing to marvel at without the resurrection, really. Other religions have their gods taking on human form, but without the cosmic effect of the redemption of all men. If God merely became human, but this had no salvation in it for us, it would be unique and wonderful, but not Gospel because there would be nothing in it for me or for you.

If Jesus died on the cross (which He did) but did not rise from the dead, then we would have no knowledge or comfort in His death on our behalf because all it seemed to accomplish was His death. Paul wrote, "*He who was delivered up because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification*" (Romans 4:25).

His death was for our sins, but His resurrection was on account of our justification. His resurrection declares in the most undeniable way that His plan worked! He has paid the debt! He has effectively borne the burden and satisfied the justice of God and now has life eternal to give because He earned life by His righteous life and swallowed up death for us by dying in our place and paying the entire burden of sin for us. Happy Easter!

### **Announcements**

To maintain the work of our church during this time of isolation from our regular services, we must continue to heed the words from 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, "*Concerning the collection for God's holy people, you also should do as I have directed the churches in Galatia to do! <sup>2</sup> On the first day of the week, let each of you put something aside as he may prosper and save it up.*" Please contact your congregational treasurers for details on the best way to give.