

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

19 April 2020

Bulletin for the 2nd Sunday of Easter

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 101 JESUS LIVES! THY TERRORS NOW

1
Jesus lives! thy terrors now
Can, O death, no more appal us;
Jesus lives! by this we know
Thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us.
Hallelujah!

2
Jesus lives! henceforth is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This will calm our trembling breath,
When we pass its gloomy portal.
Hallelujah!

3
Jesus lives! for us He died;
Then, alone to Jesus living,
Pure in heart may we abide,
Glory to our Saviour giving.
Hallelujah!

4
Jesus lives! our hearts know well
Naught from us His love will sever;
Life nor death nor powers of hell
Tear us from His keeping ever.
Hallelujah!

5
Jesus lives! to Him the throne
Over all the world is given;
May we go where He is gone,
Rest and reign with Him in heaven.
Hallelujah!

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

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens! Praise Him in the heights above!
Praise Him, all you His angels! Praise Him, all His hosts!
Praise Him, sun and moon! Praise Him, all you stars of light!
Praise Him, you heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens!
Let them praise the name of the LORD! For He commanded, and they were created.
He set them in position for ever and ever. He gave a decree that will not pass away.

Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, fire and hail, snow and fog, wind and storm, which carry out His Word, you mountains and all hills, you fruit trees and all cedars, you wild animals and all cattle, you reptiles and winged birds, you kings of the earth and all peoples, you princes and all judges on the earth, you young men and also you maidens, you old men together with young people! Let them praise the name of the LORD! For His name alone is exalted. His majesty is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for His people, praise from all His devout people, from the people of Israel, the people who are close to Him! Praise the LORD!

Psalm 148

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, grant that we, who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection, may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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 149 JESUS, PRICELESS TREASURE

<p>1 Jesus, priceless treasure, Fount of purest pleasure, Truest friend to me: Ah, how long in anguish Shall my spirit languish, Yearning, Lord, for Thee? Thou art mine O Lamb divine; I will suffer naught to hide Thee, Naught I ask beside Thee.</p>	<p>2 In Thine arms I rest me; Foes who would molest me Cannot reach me here. Though the earth be shaking, Every heart be quaking, Jesus calms my fear. Lightnings flash And thunders crash; Yet, though sin and hell assail me, Jesus will not fail me.</p>	<p>3 Hence, all earthly treasure! Jesus is my pleasure, Jesus is my choice. Hence, all empty glory! Naught to me thy story, Told with tempting voice. Pain or loss, Or shame or cross, Shall not from my Saviour move me, Since He deigns to love me.</p>
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<p>4 Hence, all fear and sadness! For the Lord of gladness, Jesus, enters in. Those who love the Father, Though the storms may gather,</p>	<p>Still have peace within. Yea, whate'er I here must bear, Thou art still my purest pleasure, Jesus, priceless treasure</p>
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SERMON - THE RISEN LORD JESUS COMES TO US AND SPEAKS HIS PEACE INTO OUR HEARTS
SO THAT WE MAY SPEAK THAT PEACE TO THE WORLD John 20:19-31

HYMN 100 AWAKE, MY HEART, REJOICING

<p>1 Awake, my heart, rejoicing, Behold a wondrous sight, How after gloom and sorrow Comes forth a glorious light. My Saviour's body lay Where we shall rest that day When, borne to realms of light, Our spirit wings its flight.</p>	<p>3 Defeated and o'erpowered, The prince of hell there lies; His deadly raging silenced, No more can he arise. The Lord now has hell's key, He who triumphantly The power of death laid low, And holds in bonds the foe.</p>	<p>5 For ever as a member I cling to Christ, the head, And whither He shall lead me I follow unafraid. Through toil and pain and grief, In all to Him I cleave; Through sorrow, death, and night, Christ is my shield and light.</p>
<p>2 The foe in triumph shouted When Christ lay in the tomb; But soon his hopes were shattered, His boast was turned to gloom. For Christ again is free In glorious victory; A hero strong to save, He triumphed o'er the grave.</p>	<p>4 Now when I view this triumph, My heart is filled with joy; There is no power to harm me. Naught can my hope destroy. For me there is a prize, Laid up in Paradise, Which Christ, the risen Lord, Shall all His saints accord.</p>	

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 105 GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE AND SING

1
Good Christian men, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King;
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2
The Lord of life is risen for aye;
Bring flowers of song to strew His way;
Let all mankind rejoice and say:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3
Praise we in songs of victory
That love, that life which cannot die,
And sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4
Thy name we bless, O risen Lord,
And sing today with one accord
The life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

It's been a strange celebration for Easter for us! Thank the Lord then, that no matter how we celebrate, Easter does not lose its meaning: Jesus has accomplished salvation for us by His death and resurrection. May the Lord continue to bless and encourage you during this Easter Season.

If you haven't already done so, go to the AELC website and click on the Resources link. A new edition of the Parish Magazine has been uploaded. For those who do not have internet access, and you haven't received a printed copy, please give me a call and I'll organise to get one to you.

Usually on Easter Monday the Downs Parish holds their Sunday School picnic. As part of the activities, the children are given a picture to colour in. The best entries win prizes. On the last page of the Parish Magazine is a colouring-in picture for our children. Get your children to colour it in and send it to me – I'm sure I can find some prizes to hand out 😊 This competition is open to children across BOTH parishes.

Jesus' Compassion

What would you think if your pastor delayed calling on a sick member until the person died? Unfortunately, we may be at that point. Most senior care facilities are not permitting visitors, including pastors, unless death is imminent. Up to a few weeks ago, I was regularly visiting members of our church bringing them Christ's body and blood. It is agonising when a pastor cannot be with those who are sick and dying. If a pastor has a choice, he would not wait.

Jesus, the Good Shepherd does exactly that! He waits, when we normally would not. He does it to show the glory of God. Jesus lets Lazarus die. Only then does Jesus go to Bethany. This letting die is exactly the point for us Christians!

The Good Shepherd leaves you to die. You must die. We say to Jesus: "Why won't You save me sooner? Why must I pass through suffering and death? Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died. If you had been here, my husband would not have died. If you had been here, I would not be suffering in the hospital. If you had been here, you would have rescued me from the trouble my family is having. If you had been here, my teenager would have stayed away from drugs. If you had been here, my son would not be living with a woman who is not his wife. Lord, if you would have been here, we would not be shut in and worrying about getting this COVID infection.

Where were you, Lord? Even that is a question that comes from faith! But we must allow Jesus to give the answer. He tells us that He suffers with us in our suffering. He is touched by everything that we feel. John tells us that "Jesus wept" (John 11:35). At first glance, this seems to be a strange reaction on the part of Jesus who knows perfectly well that within the next few minutes He will raise from the dead His friend, Lazarus. Why weep then on the cusp of such a triumphant moment?

Yet He who has power over death also knows that death remains to us the last enemy. He knows what tribulation it was for Mary and Martha to sit by their brother's deathbed nursing him while he felt the agony of death coming upon him, while his breathing became laboured, as he lapsed into unconsciousness. The women looked upon their beloved brother in his final moments and feared for him, wept for him, and grieved for their loss as he gave up his spirit. Yes, he was commended to God, but leaving great sorrow at his passing. Their Lord Jesus knew exactly what they had gone through. He knew better than anyone what the cost was! He was wrenched by their sorrow and agony and He shared it with them. As they had wept, He wept. As we have wept, He weeps. What compassion Jesus has for us!

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