

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

28 June 2020

Bulletin for the 4th Sunday after Pentecost

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 356 LORD OF GLORY, WHO HAST BOUGHT US

1
Lord of glory, who hast bought us
With Thy life-blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice,
And with that hast freely given
Blessings, countless as the sand,
To the unthankful and the evil
With Thine own unsparing hand:

2
Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee
Gladly, freely, of Thine own;
With the sunshine of Thy goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone;
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by Thee, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive.

3
Wondrous honour hast Thou given
To our humblest charity
In Thine own mysterious sentence,
"Ye have done it unto Me."
Can it be, O gracious master,
Thou dost deign for alms to sue,
Saying to Thy poor and needy,
"Give as I have given to you."?

4
Lord of glory, who hast bought us
With Thy life-blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice:
Give us faith, to trust Thee boldly,
Hope to stay our souls on Thee,
But, O best of all Thy graces,
Give us Thine own charity.

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

Look at my affliction and rescue me! For I have not forgotten Your Instruction.

Defend my case and redeem me! Preserve my life according to Your Promise!

Salvation is far from wicked people. For they have not been intent on Your Prescriptions.

Your acts of compassion are many, O LORD. Preserve my life according to Your Decisions!

My persecutors and my adversaries are many, but I have not turned away from Your Testimonies.

I have seen those who act faithlessly and have been loathing them. For they have not been keeping Your Word.

See how I love Your Directions! O LORD, preserve my life according to Your mercy!

The summary of Your Word is Truth. Every one of Your righteous Decisions endures for ever.

Psalm 119:153-160

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, by the working of Your Holy Spirit, grant that we may gladly hear Your Word proclaimed among us and follow its directing; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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 361 LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS

1
Let us ever walk with Jesus,
Follow His example pure,
Flee the world that would deceive us,
In temptation's hour endure.
Ever in His footsteps treading,
Dwelling here, yet hearts above,
Full of faith, and hope, and love,
Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, abide with me;
Saviour, lead, I follow Thee.

2
Let us suffer here with Jesus,
To His image e'er conform;
Soon will joys delight and please us,
Sunshine follow on the storm.
Though we sow in tears and sorrow,
We shall reap in heavenly bliss,
And the fears that now distress
Vanish in a brighter morrow.
Here I suffer, Lord, with Thee;
There, O share Thy joy with me.

3
Let us also die with Jesus,
Who by death has conquered death;
From eternal doom He frees us,
Gives our souls new life and faith.
Let us fight, while life is given,
Sin that would again enslave;
And the dark and dreaded grave
Will but prove the gate to heaven.
Dying, Lord, I die in Thee,
Thine to be eternally.

4
Let us gladly live with Jesus,
Who is risen from the dead;
Death and grave must soon release us,
As they yielded up our Head.
We, O Lord, as Thy true members
Shall be with Thee where Thou art;
Faithful friend, with loving heart
Ever own us as Thy brethren.
Jesus, I would live to Thee
Now and through eternity.

SERMON - WHO'S RIGHT AND WHO'S WRONG Jeremiah 28:5-9

HYMN 372 WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN

1
We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
2
May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive,
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our first fruits give.

3
O hearts are bruised and dead,
And homes are bare and cold,
And lambs for whom the shepherd bled
Are straying from the fold.
4
To comfort and to bless,
To find a balm for woe,
To tend the lone and fatherless
Is angel's work below.

5
The captive to release,
To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace,
It is a Christ-like thing.
6
And we believe Thy Word,
Though dim our faith may be,
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,
We do it unto Thee.

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 459 WORSHIP, HONOUR, GLORY, BLESSING

Worship, honour, glory, blessing,
Lord, we offer to Thy name;
Young and old, Thy praise expressing,
Join their Saviour to proclaim.

As the saints in heaven adore Thee,
We would bow before Thy throne;
As Thine angels serve before Thee,
So on earth Thy will be done.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, 5 July
Pastor on Leave

Sunday, 12 July
8.30am TMBA HC
10.30am AUB HC

8.30am OAK LR
9.30am GRN LR
9.00am LOWOOD LR

Please note that St Paul's Greenwood and Bethlehem Toowoomba are resuming LR services.

Wednesday, 1 July. 10.00am. Women's Guild is set to resume. We shall meet at the Oakey hall.
Opening Devotion: Kathie. Key Word: Learn. Item of Interest: Something beginning with "U".

Tuesday, 14 July, 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Oakey.

BIBLE STUDIES

Thursday, 16 July, 10.00am at Our Saviours Lowood.

Friday, 17 July, 7.30pm at St Paul's Greenwood.

Friday, 24 July, 7.30pm at St John's Aubigny (combined with Oakey).

Sunday, 2 August, 8.00am at Bethlehem Toowoomba.

“Black Souls Matter!”¹

So very, very much has been said, written, videoed, broadcasted, graffitied, promoted through social media regarding the mantra, “Black Lives Matter.” More importantly, should not the members of the Church be concerned and retort, “Black souls matter!”? What has recently been witnessed in the streets of our many larger cities demonstrates a spiritual poverty and anaemia – and souls in serious jeopardy.

St. Paul writes, “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth” (Eph. 4:29) and “Never pay evil back for evil to anyone,” and “be at peace with all men.” (Rom. 12:17-18); yet the harsh and crude rhetoric in our streets has given way to anger, division and hatred. St. Paul also in Ephesians 4 writes, “Do not let the sun go down on your anger,” yet a contagion of anger spreads, grows, intensifies in our streets from day to day, week to week. St. Paul adds, “Do not let your anger lead you to sin,” yet this growing anger (and hatred) gives way and, in many cases, provokes violence in the form of property, businesses and lives destroyed. What has been demonstrated in our cities' streets is evidence of a serious lack of Christian education among many of the “protestors”, i.e. no church, no Sunday Schooling, and certainly no catechesis.

And if they had ever been exposed to such at one time, it likely was crushed and brain-washed out of them courtesy of liberal university professor types; who have as their agenda the rattling of young cages, driving out archaic concepts like Christianity, and replacing the void with Marxist/anti-American ideals. Therefore real conversation is no longer allowed, just aggressive oppression to those that leftist leaders have duly name-called and labelled as deplorables, racists, homophobes, bigots, white-privileged, Bible-thumping Christians.

Some who were teens or in college in the late 60's will remember the Chicago riots (at the '68 Democrat convention) and Vietnam war demonstrations. Back then, a line from the song, “Sympathy for the Devil” of that same era, was being played out: “Every cop a criminal, and all the sinners saints; ... just call me Lucifer, 'cause I'm in need of some restraint.... Ah, what's puzzling you is just the nature of my game.” (The accompanying illustration executed some 50 years ago depicts the verses of that song.)

Here we are a half century later, and those lyrics hauntingly echo reality once again. Most recently we've had the Ferguson and Baltimore “events.”

Perhaps a big difference this time is that those on the so-called right tie themselves in knots attempting to defend themselves from the “Left's” name-calling and labelling. This cowardly reaction has been proven useless, because the Left is not interested in the right's explanations, excuses, apologies, symbolic efforts or such expressions offered.

Yet the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ has something to say: “Black souls matter!” The soul of every black aborted baby matters. The soul of every black youth without a father and caught up in gangs and drugs matters. The soul of every black person senselessly killed or wounded in our big cities over any given weekend matters. The soul of every black person that is led astray by godless extremists matters.

The same must be said for the souls of every race. After all, the soul of our entire nation matters — to Christ our Saviour who died to redeem the souls of sinners, and to the members of the Church who desire along with our Saviour that everyone come to the knowledge of salvation (see I Timothy 2:1-8).

Only by God's grace and with hearts changed through the Holy Spirit, may we joyfully look forward to the day when we sit together with souls from all nations, all races at the heavenly banquet table before the Lamb in His kingdom without end.

¹ Scott Blazek

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