

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

5 July 2020

Bulletin for the 5th 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 11 THE ADVENT OF OUR KING

1	3	
The advent of our King	O Zion's daughter, rise	
Our prayers must now employ,	To meet thy lowly King;	
And we must hymns of welcome sing	Nor let thy faithless heart despise	5
In strains of holy joy.	The peace He comes to bring	All glory to the Son,
2	4	Who comes to set us free,
The everlasting Son	As judge on clouds of light	With Father, Spirit, ever one,
Incarcate deigns to be,	He soon will come again,	Through all eternity.
Himself a servant's form puts on	And His true members will unite	
To set His servants free.	With Him in heaven to reign	

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

I shall exalt You, my God, the King. I shall bless Your name for ever and ever.

Every day I shall bless You and praise Your name for ever and ever.

Great is the LORD and to be highly praised! His greatness is unsearchable.

One generation will praise what You have done to the next, and they will proclaim Your mighty deeds.

Let me meditate on the glorious grandeur of Your majesty and on the wonderful things that You have done!

People will talk about the power of Your awesome deeds, and I shall declare Your greatness.

They will pour forth the fame of Your great goodness and shout for joy about Your righteousness.

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to become angry and great in mercy.

The LORD is good to all. His compassion is over all that He has made.

All whom You have made will praise You, O LORD. Your devout people will bless You.

They will talk about the glory of Your kingdom and speak about Your power, to make known to the descendants of Adam the mighty things that He has done and the glorious grandeur of His kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The LORD is faithful in all His works and gracious in all His deeds.

The LORD supports all those who are falling. He raises up all who are bowed down. Psalm 145:1-14

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.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father. Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and, at life's end, grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; 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 306 I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY

1	2	3
I heard the voice of Jesus say "Come unto Me and rest; Lay down, thou weary one, lay down, Thy head upon My breast": I came to Jesus as I was, Weary and worn and sad; I found in Him a resting place, And He has made me glad.	I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give The living water; thirsty one, Stoop down, and drink, and live": I came to Jesus, and I drank Of that life-giving stream; My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, And now I live in Him.	I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light; Look unto Me, thy morn will rise, And all thy day be bright": I looked to Jesus, and I found In Him my star, my sun; And in that light of life I'll walk Till travelling days are done.

HYMN 308 COME UNTO ME, YE WEARY

1 "Come unto Me, ye weary, And I will give you rest." O blessed voice of Jesus, Which comes to hearts oppressed. It tells of benediction, Of pardon, grace, and peace, Of joy that has no ending, Of love which cannot cease.	2 "Come unto Me, ye wanderers, And I will give you light." O loving voice of Jesus, Which comes to cheer the night. Our hearts were filled with sadness, And we had lost our way; But He has brought us gladness And songs at break of day.	3 "Come unto Me, ye fainting, And I will give you life." O peaceful voice of Jesus, Which comes to end our strife. The foe is stern and eager, The fight is fierce and long; But Thou hast made us mighty And stronger than the strong.
4 "And whosoever cometh I will not cast him out." O welcome voice of Jesus, Which drives away our doubt;	Which calls us, very sinners, Unworthy though we be Of love so free and boundless, To come, dear Lord, to 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 161 HOW SWEET THE NAME OF JESUS SOUNDS

1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds In a believer's ear! It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, And drives away his fear.	4 By Thee my prayers acceptance gain, Although with sin defiled; Satan accuses me in vain, And I am owned a child.
2 It makes the wounded spirit whole, And calms the troubled breast; 'Tis manna to the hungry soul, And to the weary, rest.	5 Jesus, my Shepherd, Guardian, Friend, My Prophet, Priest, and King, My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, Accept the praise I bring.
3 Dear name, the rock on which I build, My shield and hiding place; My never-failing treasury, filled With boundless stores of grace.	6 Weak is the effort of my heart, And cold my warmest thought; But when I see Thee as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.
7 Till then I would Thy love proclaim With every fleeting breath; And may the music of Thy name Refresh my soul in death.	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Services are set to resume next Sunday. If for some reason this changes, pastor will let everyone know through the week. Social distancing rules will have to be followed with seating inside the church. Families will be able to sit together, but a distance of 1.5m must be maintained between others.

If restrictions are lifted as planned further over the coming weeks, we are hoping to hold a Praise and Thanksgiving service at Minden on the 26th of July. However, unless social distancing rules change, this may have to be postponed. Keep an eye on upcoming bulletins for the latest.

COMING SERVICES

12 July 6 Pentecost	19 July 7 Pentecost	26 July 8 Pentecost	BIBLE STUDIES
8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.30am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR HYMNS: 507 267 31 (839 291) 346	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC 9.00am MARBURG LR	9.00am OAK LR 10.00am MINDEN HC AELC Praise and Thanksgiving service depending on social distancing restrictions.	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.

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

At-home abortions harm U.K. women

A mother in the United Kingdom illegally used abortion pills to kill her unborn child at 28 weeks of pregnancy. That's four weeks past the legal cut off and 18 weeks beyond the recommended gestational limit for drug-induced abortions. The woman, whom news reports did not identify, used the country's new "pills by post" program of the British Pregnancy Advisory Service.

It launched in April after the U.K. removed safety restrictions on abortion pills so women could access them more easily during the coronavirus pandemic. The pregnancy service is now investigating that and eight other cases in which women used the pill past the recommended 10-week limit, *The Sun* reported.

Before the changes, the law required women to go to an abortion facility and take the first of the two pills in the regimen under the supervision of a medical professional. Now, providers ship both pills to women's homes after a 40- minute phone or video consultation.

U.K. pro-life advocates warned the loosened restrictions put women's physical and mental health in danger. Stories like the one from *The Sun* confirmed those fears.

"That proved very quickly that we were right, that you can't control whose taking them and at what gestation without the proper consultation," said Alithea Williams, the campaigns and parliamentary assistant for the U.K. Society for the Protection of the Unborn. "Clearly they weren't managing to get the right information over the phone."

In a webinar for pro-life advocates earlier this month, Williams discussed some of the other potential dangers of women accessing abortion pills by mail. With domestic abuse on the rise, limited involvement from doctors makes it easier for partners to push abortion on women. "Do we really want to support an amendment that would remove the only opportunity many women have to speak confidentially and one-to-one with a doctor?" she asked.

At-home abortion can leave women traumatized. Courtney Barnes, a 27-year old stay-at-home mother from Kent, England, said she and her boyfriend decided she should get the abortion pills after she became pregnant during the pandemic. They have three daughters, ages 5, 3, and 1, and felt they could not afford a fourth child, Barnes told *The Daily Mail*. She took the pills at home in May. "I ended up lying in the bath trying to keep the pains at bay, and I didn't get much sleep that night," she told the newspaper. "It was a lot worse than I'd expected. The pain, the physical process was horrible." *The Daily Mail* reported in late May that Barnes remained pregnant after the attempted drug-induced abortion. She said she planned to get a surgical abortion if the pregnancy continued.

Life Charity, a pro-life organization that offers supplies and housing to pregnant and new mothers, also provides counselling to post-abortive women over the phone. Liz Parsons, a member of Life Charity's staff, said women call them to discuss the trauma from drug induced abortions.

"A lot of people... just see it as you take a pill and it just disappears, and that's not the case," she said. "That's the reason a number of people do come to us, because they might have seen things they wish they hadn't, like a dead baby in the toilet," she said.

Although the British Pregnancy Advisory Service claims abortion by pill is safe, the website still lists as possible complications a 2 percent chance of retaining some foetal tissue, a 2 in 1,000 chance of infection or haemorrhaging, and a 1 in 100,000 chance of death for the mother. Those risks are on top of the drugs' common side effects, which include vomiting and diarrhoea.

"I think a lot of the consequences of this are going to come out afterwards when everything has calmed down a bit," Williams said.

Any record of complications from abortion pills during the pandemic will not be available until a year from now, and the statistics will only reflect the complications abortion facilities know about, which won't be all of them.

For now, the British government claims it only loosened the abortion pill restrictions temporarily. But Williams is sceptical: "We highly doubt that they would let go of that power now that they've got it."

From Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation:

The living but unborn are persons in the sight of God from the time of conception. Since abortion takes a human life, it is not a moral option except to prevent the death of another person, the mother.

Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart.

Palm 139:16 Your eyes saw my unformed body. All of the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be.