

**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 July 2020

Bulletin for the 6<sup>th</sup> 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 507 OPEN NOW THY GATES OF BEAUTY

1	3	5
Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there, Where my soul in joyful duty Waits for Him who answers prayer: O how blessed is this place, Filled with solace, light, and grace.	Here Thy praise is gladly chanted, Here Thy seed is duly sown; Let my soul, where it is planted, Bring forth precious sheaves alone, So that all I hear may be Fruitful unto life in me.	Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee; Let Thy will be done indeed. May I undisturbed draw near Thee, While Thou dost Thy people feed; Here the living waters flow, Here is balm for all our woe.
2	4	
Gracious God, I come before Thee, Come Thou also down to me; Where we find Thee and adore Thee, There a heaven on earth must be. To my heart O enter Thou. Let it be Thy temple now.	Thou my faith increase and quicken, Let me keep Thy gift divine, Howsoe'er temptations thicken, May Thy Word for ever shine As my guiding star through life, As my comfort in the strife.	

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

You have taken care of the land and have caused it to overflow. You have enriched it abundantly.  
The stream of God is filled with water. You are providing their grain. For that is how You have prepared it.  
You have given its furrows their fill of drink and levelled off the edges of its furrows.  
You soften it with gentle rain and bless its growth.  
You have crowned the year of Your goodness, and Your wheel-tracks drip with fat.  
The pastures in the desert overflow. The hills are robed with joy.  
The meadows are clothed with flocks, and the valleys are covered with grain. They are shouting for joy.  
Indeed, they are singing.

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.

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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 267 ALMIGHTY GOD, THY WORD IS CAST

1  
Almighty God, Thy Word is cast  
Like seed into the ground;  
Now let the dew of heaven descend  
And righteous fruits abound.

2  
Let not the foe of Christ and man  
This holy seed remove,  
But give it root in every heart  
To bring forth fruits of love.

3  
Let not the world's deceitful cares  
The rising plant destroy,  
But let it yield a hundredfold  
The fruits of peace and joy.

4  
Oft as the precious seed is sown  
Thy quickening grace bestow,  
That all whose souls the truth receive  
Its saving power may know.

HYMN 431 MY SOUL, NOW BLESS THY MAKER

1  
 My soul, now bless thy Maker!  
 Let all within me bless His name,  
 Who makes thee now partaker  
 Of mercies more than thou dar'st claim.  
 Forget Him not whose meekness  
 Forgives thee all thy sin;  
 Who heals disease and weakness,  
 Renews thy life within;  
 Whose grace and care are endless,  
 And saved thee through the past;  
 Who leaves no sufferer friendless,  
 But rights the wronged at last.

2  
 He shows to man His treasure  
 Of judgment, truth, and righteousness,  
 His love beyond all measure,  
 His yearning pity o'er distress;  
 Nor treats us as we merit,  
 But lays His anger by;  
 The humble, contrite spirit  
 Finds His compassion nigh;  
 Far as the heavens above us,  
 As break from close of day,  
 So far, since He doth love us,  
 He casts our sins away.

3  
 For as a tender father  
 Has pity on his children here,  
 He in His arms will gather  
 All who are His in childlike fear.  
 He knows how frail our powers,  
 Who but from dust are made,  
 We flourish as the flowers,  
 And even so we fade;  
 The wind but o'er them passes,  
 And all their bloom is o'er —  
 We wither like the grasses,  
 Our place knows us no more.

4  
 God's grace endures for ever,  
 And children's children yet shall prove  
 His mercy fails them never  
 Who walk His ways in steadfast love.  
 In heaven is fixed His dwelling,  
 His rule is over all;  
 Ye hosts, in strength excelling,  
 In praise before Him fall.  
 O bless Him and adore Him,  
 His might and love extol.  
 I too would come before Him:  
 O bless the Lord, my soul.

THE OFFERTORY

**What can I offer to the Lord: for all His goodness to me?**  
**I will lift up the cup of salvation: and call on the name of the Lord.**  
**I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving: and call on the name of the Lord.**  
**I will keep my promises to the Lord: in the presence of all His people;**  
**In the courts of the house of the Lord: in your midst, O Jerusalem.**

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 346 FORTH IN THY NAME, O LORD, I GO

1  
 Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go,  
 My daily labour to pursue;  
 Thee, only Thee, resolved to know,  
 In all I think or speak or do.

3  
 Thee may I set at my right hand,  
 Whose eyes my inmost substance see,  
 And labour on at Thy command,  
 And offer all my works to Thee.

2  
 The task Thy wisdom hath assigned  
 O let me cheerfully fulfil,  
 In all my works Thy presence find,  
 And prove Thy good and perfect will.

4  
 Give me to bear Thy easy yoke,  
 And every moment watch and pray,  
 And still to things eternal look,  
 And hasten to Thy glorious day;.

For Thee delightfully employ  
 Whate'er Thy boundless grace hath given,  
 And run my course with even joy,  
 And closely walk with Thee to heaven

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 26<sup>th</sup> 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

19 July 7 Pentecost	26 July 8 Pentecost	2 August 9 Pentecost	BIBLE STUDIES
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.	8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.30am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR	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.

### **God's Powerful Word**

God makes contact with sinners through His Word. The Word comes from God, who authors it and sends it across time and space to the sinner. God assures us in Isaiah 55:10-11 that His Word is effective. He says, "*For, as the rain and the snow come down from the sky and do not go back there without watering the earth and causing it to bring forth and to sprout, so that it gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> so My Word will be, which goes out of My mouth. It will not return to Me without results but will accomplish what I desire and be successful in what I have sent it to do.*" It is His Word because it goes out of His mouth and returns to Him. As His Word, it is powerful. The writer to the Hebrews reminds us, "*The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart*" (4:12).

We also say that His Word is true because it comes from God. God has given His Word by inspiration, and His Word cannot lie because God cannot lie. As we read the words written by Isaiah, we can be confident that they are the very words of God. Throughout the prophecy, Isaiah noted that what he wrote had been revealed to him and that he had received his revelation from God (for example, 1:1; 2:1; 5:9; 6:1; 8:11). Jeremiah and the other prophets made the same claim. The apostle Paul wrote, "*This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit*" (1 Corinthians 2:13), and Peter summarised the centuries of God's proclamation by reminding us, "*Prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit*" (2 Peter 1:21).

Isaiah introduces us to a precious truth concerning the Word of God. Through His prophet, God tells us how His Word works. Clearly and simply, God presents a striking comparison. His Word comes from Him like the rain and snow from heaven. When rain and snow come down, they water the ground and make it bud and flourish. When God's Word comes to sinners, it too works. Paul told Timothy what the Word could do: "*All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be proficient and thoroughly equipped for every good work*" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). God can also use His Word to bring judgment. Isaiah had the difficult task of proclaiming God's Word and watching as it made the hearts of his listeners calloused and their ears dull. God told Him, "*Go and tell this people: 'Keep on listening but do not understand, and keep on seeing but do not perceive!'*" <sup>10</sup> *Make the heart of this people insensitive, make their ears dull and seal their eyes shut, that they may not see with their eyes or hear with their ears and that their hearts may not understand, so that they should not turn back and find healing for themselves!*" (6:9-10). In this section, however, the great accomplishment of the Word is to convert and draw the nations to God.

God has promised to work through the external Word. God has simply chosen the Word as the means through which He has promised to work. Of course, he could work through other means, but the entire Scripture maintains that God works through the Word. These verses only

emphasise the encouragement He gave earlier in verses 2 and 3, namely, “*Why do you spend money for what is not bread and your labour for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me! Eat what is good and enjoy rich food!*”<sup>3</sup> *Turn your ears toward Me and come to Me! Listen, that your souls may stay alive! I shall establish an eternal Covenant with you, the long-lasting mercies shown to David.*” There God invited sinners to listen – to listen carefully and turn their ears toward Him. The phrase “turn your ears toward Me” means to stretch out the ears, to strain them to catch the words. None of this should surprise us when we realise what God’s Word can do. Whenever anyone thinks that he or she can do without hearing the Word, such a person discards the way God works within us. We may behold the beauties of God’s created world and wonder at God’s glory and majesty, but those insights will not bring us to Christ. Only His Word can do that.