

CONGREGATIONS OF THE AELC
TRINITY MARBURG, ST JOHN'S MINDEN, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD
30 August 2020
Bulletin for the 13th 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 411 IF GOD BE MY DEFENDER

1 If God be my defender, I may a host defy; My foes must all surrender Since He is ever nigh. If Christ, my head and master, Befriend me from above, What foe or what disaster Can part me from His love?	3 I build on this foundation That Jesus and His blood Alone are my salvation, The trust, eternal good. Without Him, all that pleases Is valueless on earth; The gifts of my Lord Jesus Alone my love are worth.	5 My heart with joy is singing, And can no more be sad; 'Tis full of mirth and singing, Sees naught but sunshine glad. The sun that cheers my spirit Is Jesus Christ, my King; That which I shall inherit Makes me rejoice and sing
2 This I believe — yea, rather, In this I make my boast, That God is my dear Father, The friend that loves me most, And that, whate'er betide me, My Lord is ever near, Through stormy seas to guide me, And banish every fear.	4 No powers, no pomp, no pleasures, No kingdom and no fame, No riches and no treasures, No poverty or shame, No earthly thing whatever, No angel from above, From God my soul shall sever, And part me from His love.	

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

Vindicate me, O LORD! For I have been walking in my integrity and I trust in the LORD. I shall not waver.

Test me, O LORD, and try me! **Examine my secret parts and my heart!**

For Your mercy is before my eyes, and I have been walking in Your truth.

I have not been sitting with deceitful people and shall not associate with hypocrites.

I hate the assembly of evildoers and shall not sit with wicked people.

I shall wash my hands in innocence, that I may walk around Your altar, O LORD, that I may proclaim a song of thanksgiving and tell about all Your wonderful deeds.

O LORD, I love the house where You live, the place where Your glory dwells.

Do not sweep my soul away with sinners or my life with bloodthirsty people!

They have an evil scheme in their hands, and their right hands are full of bribes.

However, I myself shall walk in my integrity. Redeem me and be gracious to me!

My foot has been standing on level ground. I shall bless the LORD in the assemblies.

Psalm 26

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 and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; 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 112 HAIL, THOU ONCE DESPISED JESUS

1	2	3
Hail, Thou once despised Jesus, Hail, Thou Galilean King! Thou didst suffer to release us, Thou didst free salvation bring. Hail, Thou agonising Saviour, Bearer of our sin and shame; By Thy merits we find favour; Life is given through Thy name.	Paschal Lamb, by God appointed, All our sins on Thee were laid; By almighty love anointed, Thou hast full atonement made: All Thy people are forgiven Through the virtue of Thy blood; Opened is the gate of heaven; Peace is made 'twixt man and God.	Jesus, hail! Enthroned in glory, There for ever to abide; All the heavenly hosts adore Thee, Seated at Thy Father's side. There for sinners Thou art pleading; There Thou dost our place prepare, Ever for us interceding, Till in glory we appear.

4

Worship, honour, power, and blessing,
Thou art worthy to receive;
Loudest praises without ceasing
Meet it is for us to give.
Help, ye bright angelic spirits,
Bring your sweetest, noblest lays;
Help to sing our Saviour's merits,
Help to chant Immanuel's praise

SERMON - OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD Romans 12:16-21

HYMN 358 RENEW ME, O ETERNAL LIGHT

1
Renew me, O eternal Light,
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined by the light of grace
That issues from Thy holy face.

2
Destroy in me the lust of sin,
From all impureness make me clean;
O grant me power and strength, my God,
To strive against my flesh and blood.

3
Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey Thy Word,
And naught but what Thou wilt, desire
With such new life my soul inspire.

4
Grant that I only Thee may love,
And seek those things which are above,
Till I behold Thee face to face,
O Light eternal, through Thy grace.

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 515 ON WHAT HAS NOT BEEN SOWN

1
On what has not been sown,
Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;
The power is Thine alone
To make it spring and grow.
Do Thou the gracious harvest raise,
And Thou alone shalt have the praise.

2
To Thee our wants are known,
From Thee are all our powers;
Accept what is Thine own,
And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive,
And to Thy Word a blessing give.

3
O grant that each of us
Who meet before Thee here,
May meet together thus
When Thou and Thine appear,
And follow Thee to heaven our home.
E'en so, Amen, Lord Jesus, come!

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Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at www.aelc.org.au

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, 2 September, 10.00am. Women's Guild at Oakey. Opening Devotion: Fay. Key Word: Lie, Liar. Item of Interest: Something beginning with "W".

Tuesday, 8 September, 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Oakey. Opening Devotion: Grant.

Marburg Parish, please note the swap of venues for 6 & 20 September. This was made so as to give the Lowood congregation a HC service.

COMING SERVICES

6 September 14 Pentecost	13 September 15 Pentecost	20 September 16 Pentecost
8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC 9.00am <u>MINDEN</u> LR **Please note the change	8.00am Bible Study & 9.00am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC Harvest Thanksgiving 9.00am MARBURG LR	8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am <u>LOWOOD</u> HC & Bible Study **Please note the change

***Please note that services can change, depending on any further restrictions being placed on places of worship by the government during covid 19. If any decisions are made which will affect our services, I shall let everyone know.

Good Works glorify God and serve our Neighbour

In the first place, we do good works to say thank you to God for His grace to us. We join with the psalmist in declaring, “*I shall praise the LORD for His righteousness. I shall sing praise to the name of the LORD, the Most High*” (Psalm 7:17). As we contemplate God’s mercies to us, we declare with the hymn writer:

*Oh, that I had a thousand voices
To praise my God with thousand tongues!
My heart, which in the Lord rejoices,
Would then proclaim in grateful songs
To all, wherever I might be,
What great things God has done for me.*

(Lutheran Worship 448)

We show our love for God in a concrete way, and that is by showing love to our neighbour. As Jesus said, “*Truly, I tell you, anything you have done for one of My brothers here, even the least important of them, you have done for Me*” (Matthew 25:40). If we show a lack of love for our neighbour, we are showing a lack of love for God. As John wrote, “*If anyone has this world’s goods and sees his brother in need but shuts his heart against him, how does the love of God remain in him?... If anyone says, “I love God,” but hates his brother, he is a liar. For no one who fails to love his brother, whom he has seen, can love God, whom he has not seen.*²¹ *This is also the Commandment that we have from Him, that he who loves God should also love his brother*” (1 Jn 3:17; 4:20-21).

When the Lord asked Cain where his brother Abel was, Cain responded by saying, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” (Genesis 4:9). His statement is part of the self-centred old Adam all people have by birth. Only the love of God can melt our self-centred hearts so we follow the directive of Paul, “*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty conceit but in humility regard others as being better than you are!*⁴ *Each of you should look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others!*” (Philippians 2:3-4). In the parable of the good Samaritan, Jesus tells us that our neighbour is anyone in need of our help (Luke 10:25-37).

God’s love for us moves us, in love for Him, to put our lives into the service of our neighbour. Greatness in God’s kingdom is measured in terms of service to others. Jesus said to His disciples who were arguing over who was greatest among them, “*However, it is not like that among you, but whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,*⁴⁴ *and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of all!*⁴⁵ *For even the Son of Man has not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many*” (Mark 10:43-45). Paul wrote, “*Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of faith!*” (Galatians 6:10).

There are many ways we can show our love for God by showing love to our neighbour. We can obey our parents and superiors and hold them in love and esteem. We can help and be a friend to our neighbour in every bodily need. We can help our neighbour improve and protect his property and business. We can speak well of our neighbour, defend him, and take his words and actions in the kindest possible way. We can help our neighbour keep what he has. Above all, we can share with our neighbour the good news that Jesus is the Saviour from sin. There is no greater work than to bring to others the Good News of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ!