

MARBURG PARISH OF THE AELC
TRINITY MARBURG, ST JOHN'S MINDEN, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD

20 September 2020

Bulletin for the 16th Sunday after Pentecost

HYMNS: 461 324 332 840 847 459

INTROIT: The LORD is my Light and my Salvation. Whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the Fortress of my life. Of whom should I be afraid?

When evildoers came against me to devour my flesh, my oppressors and my enemies stumbled and fell.

If an army were to pitch camp against me, my heart would not be afraid.

If a war were to break out against me, in this I would be confident.

One thing I have asked of the LORD. That I shall seek, that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to reflect in His Temple.

For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble. He will conceal me under the cover of His tent. He will set me high on a rock.

Now my head will be high above my enemies all around me. Therefore, I shall offer sacrifices in His tent with shouts of joy. I shall sing and make music to praise the LORD.

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud! Be gracious to me and answer me!

When You said, "Be intent on My face!" my heart said to You, "I shall be intent on Your face, O LORD."

Do not hide Your face from me! Do not turn Your servant away in anger!

You have been my Help. Do not cast me off or abandon me, O God of my salvation!

Psalm 27:1-9

The Lord's Supper has always been seen as a sign of unity between those who commune together at the Lord's table (1 Cor. 10:17). When Christians partake of the Lord's Supper in a church body that has a confession of faith, they thereby declare that they believe that they are one in faith with those who commune with them. Since people cannot honestly hold two differing confessions at the same time, they cannot honestly commune with those whose confession is in conflict with their own. If any do this nevertheless, they deny their own confession, and so deny Christ Himself (2 Cor. 6:14-18). **We ask visitors who are communicant members in a church not in fellowship with the AELC, or are not familiar with the *AELC Statement of Faith*, to refrain from communing today. If you have questions, please speak with the pastor after service.**

COLLECT: Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything that we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Isaiah 55:6-9 Seek the Lord while He may be found
Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30 The advancement of the Gospel, to
live with Christ
Matthew 20:1-16 Labourers in the vineyard

SERMON: Matthew 20:1-16 The Work and Wages in the Kingdom of God

Baptism has a daily use in a Christian's life

Baptism serves to assure us daily that God has given us the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. When our sins trouble us, when the devil accuses us, when doubts assail us, Baptism comforts us. It assures us that God has given to us as our own the forgiveness Jesus has won for all. It assures us that Christ has clothed us in His righteousness. It assures us that heaven is ours. As Luther wrote in the Large Catechism:

Thus, we must regard baptism and put it to use in such a way that we may draw strength and comfort from it when our sins or conscience oppress us and say: "But I am baptized! And if I have been baptized, I have the promise that I shall be saved and have eternal life, both in soul and body." No greater jewel, therefore, can adorn our body and soul than baptism, for through it we become completely holy and blessed, which no other kind of life and no work on earth can acquire. (LC Fourth Part: 44, 46)

Baptism also daily serves as an incentive and source of power for sanctified living. Paul tells us in Romans 6 that through Baptism we died to sin and were made alive in Christ. As Luther put it in his Small Catechism:

Fourth: What does baptizing with water mean?

Baptism means that the old Adam in us should be drowned by daily contrition and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and

desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Luther expands on this in his Large Catechism:

Thus a Christian life is nothing else than a daily baptism, begun once and continuing ever after. For we must keep at it without ceasing, always purging whatever pertains to the old Adam, so that whatever belongs to the new creature may come forth.

Here you see that baptism, both by its power and by its signification, comprehends also the third sacrament, formerly called penance, which is really nothing else than baptism. What is repentance but an earnest attack on the old creature and an entering into a new life? If you live in repentance, therefore, you are walking in baptism, which not only announces this new life but also produces, begins, and exercises it. In baptism we are given the grace, Spirit, and strength to suppress the old creature so that the new may come forth and grow strong. (LC Fourth Part:65,74-76)

Those who view Baptism simply as an act of the past by which we turned our lives over to Christ miss out on the many blessings Baptism gives to us every day. Those who relegate Baptism to a single act in the past rob themselves of the comfort of the gospel and a source of strength for sanctified living. Baptism is of daily benefit. As Luther observed:

Therefore let all Christians regard their baptism as the daily garment that they are to wear all the time. Every day they should be found in faith and with its fruits, suppressing the old creature and growing up in the new... As we have once obtained forgiveness of sins in baptism, so forgiveness remains day by day as long as we live, that is, as long as we carry the old creature around our necks. (LC Fourth Part:84-86)

Welcome to all with us today!

Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 46333604 or 0407583922.

Email him at paziebell@gmail.com or to the church office at ddaelc@gmail.com.

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

Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.

COMING SERVICES

27 September 17 Pentecost	4 October 18 Pentecost	11 October 19 Pentecost
8.30am OAK HC Harvest Thanksgiving 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC Harvest Thanksgiving 9.00am LOWOOD LR	8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am MARBURG LR 8.30am TMBA HC Harvest Thanksgiving & Confirmation Service	8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.00am MINDEN LR **Confirmation Sunday at Aubigny. Time to be announced.
Sunday, 27 September		
READINGS: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Philipians 2:1-18; Matthew 21:23-32		
HYMNS: 36 197 405 346 OAK & GRN: 567 563 814 138 840 643		
Sunday, 4 October		
READINGS: Isaiah 5:1-7; Philipians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46 TMBA: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 12:13-21		
HYMNS: 352 62 54 189 TMBA: 296 563 301 286 300		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Studies:

Today at Lowood after service.

Friday, 26 September, 7.30pm at Aubigny.

***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.