

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

Christmas Day

**HYMNS:** 26 624 622 628 33 34

**INTROIT:** Why have the nations been restless, and why do the peoples plot for no purpose?

The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers conspire together, against the LORD and against His Anointed One,

“Let us tear up their chains and throw their ropes away from us!”

The One enthroned in heaven laughs. The LORD ridicules them.

Then He speaks to them in His anger and terrifies them in His glowing anger, saying:

“Nevertheless, I Myself have consecrated My King on Zion, My holy mountain.”

“I shall proclaim the decree of the LORD: He has said to Me: ‘You are My Son. Today I have begotten You.

“Ask Me, that I may make the nations Your inheritance and the ends of the earth Your property.

“You will break them with an iron rod. You will smash them to pieces like a vessel of pottery.”

Now therefore, kings, act with insight! Take advice, judges of the earth!

Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling!

Fervently kiss the Son, that He may not become angry, and that you may not perish in your way! For His anger may blaze up in a short time.

Blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

Psalm 2

**COLLECT:** Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

**READINGS:** Isaiah 52:7-10 The Lord's Coming Salvation.

Hebrews 1:1-12 The Supremacy of God's Son.

John 1:1-14-18 The Word became flesh.

**SERMON:** Luke 2:11

A SAVIOUR, WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD HAS BEEN BORN FOR YOU!

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.**

### Jesus Christ, the Light of the World

In the times of Christ the light had departed from Israel as one poet wrote: "*So fallen, so lost The Light withdrawn, The Glory gone forevermore.*" Thus the Jews in Christ's day had only two lamps to remind them of the glory that once the twelve-tribe nation had enjoyed.

The Jews in Jesus' days could truly say "the glory is gone." Despite this gloomy situation the Hebrews could remind themselves of Isaiah's prophecy: "*The people who were walking in darkness will see a bright Light*" (9:2). Later on Zacharias the priest and husband of Elizabeth, in his hymn of thanksgiving, referred to this Light as "*the Dawn from on high,*" who would visit "*to shine on those who live in darkness*" (Luke 1:79). Simeon, forty days after Christ's birth, exultingly proclaimed "*Now, Lord, You are letting Your servant depart in peace, as You have promised, because my eyes have seen Your Salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all the peoples, a Light to bring revelation to the Gentiles and the Glory of Your people Israel*" (Luke 2:29-32).

The Light-bearer appeared before the people when He declared: "*I am the Light of the world*" (John 8:12).

#### 2. Light is Extremely Pure

How well the designation Light applies to Christ! Light is the purest and most untarnished substance in the world. Snow is pure, as is water and air, but each of these will admit of defilement and may be marred and polluted. It is not so with light. Man's hand cannot soil it. No corruption can defile its rays or attach pollution to its beams.

Babies and children, young and old people have inherited original sin from their forebears. All men are conceived in sin and are born as sinners. By contrast Jesus was not conceived in sin, neither was he a sinner when Mary, the mother of God, gave birth to Him. Jesus spent thirty-three years in a sinful world and left it unsullied. The Apostle Peter testified: "*He did not commit any sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth*" (1 Peter 2:22).

Pilate stated before His enemies: "*I find no fault in Him at all.*" The criminal on the cross remonstrated with his partner in crime: "*This man has done nothing wrong.*" Judas Iscariot, Christ's betrayer, exclaimed before Jewish leaders, as he threw their blood money on the floor: "*I have sinned in that I have betrayed innocent blood.*" The centurion, a spectator to the crucifixion of Christ, cried out: "*This certainly was a righteous man and the Son of God.*" Christ challenged His enemies: "*Which of you proves Me guilty of sin?*" Truly,

Christ was pure, for like light He was pure all His earthly life.

### 3. Life Is Free

Light on earth comes without cost and appears everywhere. No poverty is so great as to bar a person from enjoying its blessings. There is not a nook or corner in this wide world into which the light refuses to come. Light is free and so is Christ and His salvation. It was the desire that His Heavenly Father wanted all people to enjoy the results of the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ. Jesus, before His leaving this earth said on a mountain in Galilee: “*Go you into all the world and preach the Gospel,*” the Good News, how salvation is available for mankind. There is no palace or residence into which Christ does not wish to enter and be welcomed and accepted as Saviour and Redeemer. Jew and Gentile, male and female, slave or free, black, yellow or white are offered the blessings of heaven on the same terms of grace. Yes, Christ is the Light of the World and is ready to lighten every human individual that comes into the world and sees the light of day.

### 4. Light Is Revealing

Another quality pertaining to light is, that it is revealing. In Holy Scripture, “light” and “darkness” are opposites. Darkness obscures facts, causes and people. Where there is no light, we may stumble into a pit under our feet, a murderer may be waiting in our path with a dagger aimed at the heart. The darkness hides danger in certain situations but is apparent when the light shines on them. Thus it is also in the spiritual world, where Christ is the Great Revealer. It is only through Christ that we come to know God and the nature of ourselves. From Christ we learn who we are, what our needs are, and how to relieve them. One of the most difficult matters when preaching the Word of God is to convince human beings that they are guilty before God. Such people are living in darkness and need the light to show them how reprehensible they are in God’s sight. Christ is the Light who wants to show them their need and the help He can give them.

### 5. Light Is Life-giving

Not only does light dispel darkness but simultaneously it gives life. Without Christ, the Light of the world, the world is spiritually dead. Look upon the history of the world, which shows how Greece and Rome practiced idolatry and debauchery, where human beings (slaves) were treated worse than animals. Consider the Egyptians who worshipped and adored bulls, crocodiles, reptiles, bugs and birds as gods. Think of the Chinese, Japanese and Hindus of the past and present with their hopeless concepts about life and the after-life. These were all in existence in Christ’s day. All these and many systems of religion today do not satisfactorily answer the question: “What shall I do to be saved?” They fail at a point where they are most needed. By contrast to all non-Christian religions, Christianity assures all people: “*The blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God cleanses us from all sins*” (John 1:29). “*He who has come to faith and been baptised will be saved*” (Mark 16:15).

Christ makes men of character. He makes them strong and courageous, people who are loving and charitable, self-controlling people. Christ energises His followers to fight the good fight, to finish the course, to keep the faith unto the end. Yes, Christ, who dispels darkness, also gives life now and hereafter eternal life, which begins with conversion and will extend throughout all eternity.

*Welcome to all worshipping with us today! Merry Christmas! May you all have a holy and blessed Christmas, celebrating the birth of the Saviour, Jesus Christ. Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 46333604 or 0407583922.*

Email him at [paziebell@gmail.com](mailto:paziebell@gmail.com) or to the church office at [ddaelc@gmail.com](mailto:ddaelc@gmail.com).

Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at [www.aelc.org.au](http://www.aelc.org.au)

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

## COMING SERVICES

27 December 1 Christmas	1 January 2021 New Year's Day	3 January 2 Christmas
8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR	9.30am AUB HC	8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA HC 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC 9.00am MARBURG
<b>Sunday, 27 December</b>		
READINGS: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40		
HYMNS: 14 23 part 2 20 (741 290) 508		
<b>Friday, 1 January 2021</b>		
READINGS: Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 2:21		
HYMNS: 554 36 277 852 848 609		
<b>Sunday, 3 January</b>		
READINGS: 1 Kings 3:4-15; Ephesians 1:3-14; Luke 2:40-52		
HYMNS: 39 147 165 (839 840) 323		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please take home with you a copy of Pastor's Christmas Letter and Calendar for 2021.

The last two issues of the Good News magazine for 2020 are now available.

There are extra copies of these issues if you had not previously ordered one.