

**DARLING DOWNS PARISH OF THE AELC**  
**TRINITY OAKLEY, ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,**  
**BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA**

23 April 2017  
Bulletin for 2 Easter

**HYMNS:** 101 767 149 848 842 97

**INTROIT: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD** from the heavens! Praise Him in the heights above!

Praise Him, all you His angels! Praise Him, all His hosts!

Praise Him, sun, and moon! Praise Him, all you stars of light!

Praise Him, you heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD! For He commanded and they were created.

He set them in position for ever and ever. He gave a decree that will not pass away.

**Praise the LORD** from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, fire and hail, snow and fog, wind and storm, which carry out His Word, you mountains and all hills, you fruit trees and all cedars, you wild animals and all cattle, you reptiles and winged birds, you kings of the earth and all peoples, you princes and all judges on the earth, you young men and also you maidens, you old men together with young people!

Let them praise the name of the LORD! For His name alone is exalted. His majesty is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for His people, praise from all His devout people, from the people of Israel, the people who are close to Him! Praise the LORD!

Psalm 148

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:** Almighty God, grant that we, who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection, may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**READINGS:** Acts 5:29-42 "They did not cease teaching and telling the Good News that Jesus is the Christ."

1 Peter 1:3-9 "He has given us new birth by His great mercy."

John 20:19-31 Jesus appears to the disciples and to Thomas.

**SERMON:** 1 Peter 1:3-9 The Abiding Meaning of Easter

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! He has given us new birth by His great mercy, through raising Jesus Christ from the dead. Therefore we have a living hope, <sup>4</sup> which waits for an inheritance that cannot be destroyed or defiled and never fades away, and that God has reserved for you in heaven. <sup>5</sup> You are protected by God's power through faith, until you come to the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you greatly rejoice, even though now, for a little while, if it is necessary, you have been suffering grief in various trials. <sup>7</sup> These sufferings have come so that your faith may be proved genuine. It is more precious than gold, which perishes, although it is tested by fire. Then the tested genuineness of your faith will result in praise, glory, and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Although you have not seen Him, you love Him. You do not see Him now, but you believe in Him, and rejoice with unspeakable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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Peace be with You!

The enemies of Christ had crucified Jesus before He was taken down from the cross and buried in a tomb. The tomb had been sealed with a large stone and a guard placed in front of the grave. Early in the morning on the first day of the week, women went to the tomb to anoint the body of Christ with spices. They found the tomb empty. The guard had fled and the stone was removed. The angel said to them, "*Jesus Christ is not here. He has risen!*"

That's not the whole story. What happened after the discovery of the empty tomb? First, John says in his Gospel that Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene apart from the other women. Perhaps Mary had become separated from the other women. Jesus also appeared in a visible form several times to numerous people. He is not with us today in a visible form because after 40 days He ascended into heaven.

Our Gospel today says that the Lord appeared on the Sunday evening to the disciples. At this time, there were only 10 disciples present together. Judas Iscariot had earlier killed himself after his betrayal of Christ, and Thomas was not present at this particular time. John says, "*That Sunday evening the doors had been locked where the disciples were, because they were afraid of the Jews,*" (John 20:19). They were afraid that those who crucified Jesus would

crucify them too. But what happened? *“Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you!’<sup>20</sup> After He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. So the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord,”* (20:19b-20).

Note that the body of the risen Christ was a glorified body. It was not under the limits of space and time. It did not matter that the doors were locked. They could not stop Jesus from standing in the presence of the disciples. He was not a ghost, a disembodied spirit. He showed them His hands, the scars of the nails and His side where the Roman soldier pierced it with his spear. Because crucifixion was a slow process, if the crucified did not die after a while, the soldiers broke their legs. Nailed to the cross, the crucified eventually could not lift their heads to breathe. To break the legs facilitated this process. But Jesus had already died, and so His legs were not broken. Instead, with his spear, the soldier proved that Christ was dead, because water and blood was spilled from His side.

Christ is risen, but still has the marks of the crucifixion in His hands and His side. This is the cost of our salvation. In his epistle, St. John tells us, *“And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood. And these three are one,”* (1 John 5:7-8). Where do we have water as a testimony to the Son of God? In baptism, linked with the Word of God. Where do we have the blood, also the body of the Lord? In the Lord’s Supper, because the glorified body of the Lord is not limited to only one place.

That’s good. When Jesus appeared to the ten disciples, what did He tell them? *“Peace be with you!”* That must have been a surprise to them, because not only did Judas betray Him, but they all did when they fled at the time of need. However, Jesus did not condemn them, but brought them His peace.

Therefore, the ten disciples had evidence of the resurrection because with their own eyes they saw Jesus and the marks of the crucifixion. But Thomas was not present. Maybe he was disillusioned and did not want to meet any more with the others. That did not matter though. They convinced Thomas to come again and a week later, once again the disciples were in a room with the doors closed, when Jesus appeared. Again He said, *“Peace be with you!”* Then He said to Thomas: *“Put your finger here, and look at My hands! Take your hand and put it into My side! Stop your unbelief, and believe!”<sup>28</sup> Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and my God!”<sup>29</sup> Jesus asked him, “Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed!”*

From this we can learn that it is better to trust the Word of God and not always look for other evidence or new revelations. We have everything we need to know for salvation in the Holy Scriptures and the testimony of its truth and authority in baptism and the Lord’s Supper in which the Holy Spirit is active.

So we gather to hear the Word of God and receive the sacraments for the strengthening of faith. If we do not meet, like Thomas, doubts grow, but when we have the evidence of the Word and the sacraments, we have peace that passes understanding.

*Welcome to all with us today! May God bless our worship of Him by His serving of us!*

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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

<b>30 April 3 Easter</b>	<b>7 May 4 Easter</b>	<b>14 May 5 Easter</b>
	<b>Good Shepherd Sunday</b>	
10.00am OAK HC Parish Service.  **Please place your offering in envelopes marked back to your own congregations. Also bring something for a shared lunch.	8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC
<b>Sunday, 30 April</b>		
READINGS: Acts 2:14a, 36-41;	1 Peter 1:17-25;	Luke 24:13-35
HYMNS: 105 327 181 330 287 273		
<b>Sunday, 7 May</b>		
READINGS: Acts 2:42-47;	1 Peter 2:19-25;	John 10:1-10
HYMNS: 349 391 387 (100 333) 604		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, 25 April, 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Trinity Oakey. Opening devotion: Robert Ritter.

Sunday, 30 April. A quick Parish Meeting will be held immediately after service to adopt the audited treasurer's report.

### Forward Announcements:

Wednesday 3 May, 10.00am. Women's Guild at Oakey.

Friday, 5 May, 7.00pm. Family Evening at Aubigny.