

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

30 April 2017
Bulletin for 3 Easter

HYMNS: 105 327 181 330 287 273

INTROIT: I love the LORD, because He hears my voice, my plea for mercy.

Because He has turned His ear to me, I shall call on Him as long as I live. The cords of death had entangled me. The distresses of Sheol had taken hold of me. I was encountering affliction and anguish.

However, I kept on calling on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, save my life!"

The LORD is gracious and righteous. Our God is compassionate.

The LORD protects simple people. When I was weak, He saved me.

Return to your resting place, O my soul! For the LORD has been good to you.

For You have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

I shall walk before the LORD in the lands of the living.

I believed even when I said, "I am severely afflicted."

I myself said, when I was alarmed, "Every human being is a liar."

What shall I repay to the LORD for all the good that He has done to me?

I shall lift up the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the LORD.

I shall fulfil my vows to the LORD, right in the presence of all His people.

Psalm 116:1-14

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: O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Repent and be baptised.

1 Peter 1:17-25 You were redeemed... with the precious blood of Christ.

Luke 24:13-35 The road to Emmaus.

SERMON: 1 Peter 1:17-25 Be careful in following your Christian calling

¹⁷ Moreover, since you call on Him as your Father, who judges impartially, according to what each person has done, conduct yourselves reverently, as you spend your time as resident foreigners! ¹⁸ For you know that you have not been redeemed with perishable things, with silver or gold, from the worthless lives you had handed over to you from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a spotless and unblemished lamb. ²⁰ He was chosen previously, before the foundation of the world, but was revealed in the last period of time for your sakes. ²¹ Through Him you believe in God, who has raised Him from the dead and has given Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

²² You have purified yourselves by obeying the truth, with the result that the love that you have for your fellow-Christians is not insincere. Therefore, love one another eagerly with pure hearts! ²³ For you have been born again, not from a seed that can perish, but from one that cannot perish, through the Word of God, which lives and remains. ²⁴ For "All human beings are like grass, and all their glory is like the flower of the grass. The grass withers and the flower falls off, ²⁵ but the Word of the Lord remains for ever." This is the Word that has been told to you as the Good News.

Let us lift up the cup of salvation.

The Israelites were freed from the chains of slavery in Egypt for a purpose, so that they could serve the Lord in the land He would give them. We have been freed from the chains of slavery to sin for a purpose, so that we can serve the Lord by proclaiming His glory in the presence of others.

We can never repay God in the sense that we can do enough to compensate the Lord adequately for what He has done for us. But we can repay Him in the sense that we honour Him with love and gratitude, which is an appropriate expression of thanks for what He has done.

We do this when we joyfully celebrate the salvation He has given to us. In our Introit for today, Psalm 116:1-14, we have the words, “I shall lift up the cup of salvation,” (v. 13). These words are often interpreted as a reference to the cup of wine used at the Passover and other festive meals. This expression may include an allusion to that custom, but it is basically a figurative expression for everything we do that celebrates and proclaims our appreciation for God’s salvation. The cup of salvation is God’s gift to us. Lifting the cup is our celebration and proclamation of God’s gift. The Passover meal was one way Israel remembered and proclaimed God’s work of salvation.

Our celebration of the Lord’s Supper includes such remembrance and proclamation of Christ’s work for our salvation. In fact, all our public worship serves this purpose. One reason we regularly attend public worship is to declare to others our appreciation for salvation. Every act of public worship is a visible sermon that proclaims our thankfulness for all that God has done.

The ancient Israelites often took vows to perform some specific act of thanksgiving if God answered their prayers. We seldom use such vows today. But on the day of our confirmation, we did vow that our lives would be a fitting response of thankfulness for the salvation God has given us. We vowed to be faithful in our use of the Word and sacraments. We vowed to strive to live our lives according to God’s Word. We vowed that with God’s help we would be faithful even unto death. Let us renew our dedication to fulfilling those vows in the presence of God’s people. This is the thank offering by which we can “repay to the LORD... all the good that He has done to (us),” (v. 12).

O Fount of good, for all Your love
How shall our debt be paid?
What can we offer, Lord, to you
Who all the worlds have made?

Hymn 816, v.1

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

Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 46912276, or 0407583922.

Email him at paziebell@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

7 May 4 Easter	14 May 5 Easter	21 May 6 Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday		
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	8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC
Sunday, 7 May		
READINGS: Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10		
HYMNS: 349 391 387 (100 333) 604		
Sunday, 14 May		
READINGS: Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14		
HYMNS: 501 241 191 (314 290) 206		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Wednesday 3 May, 10.00am. Women's Guild at Oakey. Opening Devotion: *Fay Wieck*. Bible Study Topic: *Ransom*. Key Word: *Hell*. Item of Interest: *Cake Plate*.

Friday, 5 May, 7.00pm. Family Evening at Aubigny. Pizza etc is provided for a gold coin donation (Usually start eating 7.20). Topic for the night is "Bible Memory." There are activities on the topic, also a devotion and hymns; as well as games such as table tennis, carpet bowls, 10 pin bowls etc., or just sit and talk to others. The evening finishes with supper about 9pm, please bring a plate. Contact Jane Sippel 0488722074 for more info.