

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

7 May 2017

Bulletin for 4 Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)

HYMNS: 349 391 387 604

INTROIT: The LORD is my shepherd. I shall not lack anything.
He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me to water where
there is quiet.
He restores my soul. He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His
name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of deep darkness, I shall fear no
evil. For You are with me. Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You
anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows.
Surely, goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I
shall dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Psalm 23

COLLECT: Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened
from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit
that, when we hear the voice of our Shepherd, we may know Him
who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the
same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Acts 2:42-47 "They continued steadfastly in the teaching
of the apostles and in the fellowship."
1 Peter 2:19-25 "Christ also has suffered for you and has left you an
example."
John 10:1-10 "I am the Door for the sheep."

SERMON: 1 Peter 2:19-25 An exhortation to patience under suffering

¹⁹ For this is a commendable thing, if someone is moved by his conscience toward God, to bear the pain patiently when he suffers unjustly. ²⁰ For what credit is there if you are beaten for doing wrong and you patiently endure it? However, if you suffer for doing good and you endure it patiently, this is commendable with God. ²¹ For God has called you for this purpose, because Christ also has suffered for you and has left you an example in order that you may follow in His footsteps. ²² He did not commit any sin and no deceit was found in His mouth. ²³ When others insulted Him, He did not insult them in return. When He suffered, He did not make threats, but handed it over to Him who judges justly. ²⁴ He Himself carried our sins in His body to the cross, so that we might die to sins and live to righteousness. By His wounds you were healed. ²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Caretaker of your souls.

Because He Lives

When it rains it pours. Have you ever noticed how problems seem to come in bunches? One thing goes wrong, then another, then another. Sometimes it's simply our perception. When we're down and frustrated, we tend to notice only the bad. We see only the problems. We throw up our arms in despair and say, "What else can go wrong?"

Sometimes, though, when it rains, it really does pour.

In the case of Job, it was more like a hurricane. In one day, Job lost everything. He lost all his possessions. His ten children died together in a tragic accident. Job was even struck with a painful, debilitating illness.

The only thing Job had left was his wife who told him to give up, curse God and die. Then his friends came. They told him it was his fault. He must have done something to deserve what was happening to him. God was obviously punishing him.

When it rains it pours.

Yet, in the middle of the storm, as he faced unimaginable pain and loss, as his backstabbing friends attacked his character, Job exclaimed, "I know that my Redeemer lives," (Job 19:25).

In the Old Testament, a redeemer was a close family member or friend who would bail you out or stand up for you in times of trouble. A redeemer would marry the widow of his brother to make sure she was taken care of. A redeemer would pay to set a poor relative free from his slavery. A redeemer would stand up for you in court.

Job knew he had someone who would stand up for him, who would free him from his pains and problems. Job's Redeemer, however, wasn't a close family member or friend.

Job's Redeemer was God himself. God would stand up for him. God would set him free. And Job knew that one day, after his death, he would see his Redeemer God face to face.

Because his Redeemer lived.

Our Redeemer died. To set us free from our slavery to sin and death, He became our close relative, our brother in humanity. He suffered our punishment. He died our death. Jesus died, but He didn't stay dead.

He lives, and because He lives, we too will live. That was Job's confidence. That was his sure hope as he faced unspeakable pain and loss. No matter how bad it got, he was going to heaven. No matter how bad it hurt, one day he would be free. Not even death could beat him. Why? Because his Redeemer lived.

That was Job's confidence. That is a Christian's confidence. We can stand firm in the middle of the storm – even as the winds and rain beat against us – knowing they cannot win.

Because He lives.

I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living head.

Hymn 103 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

14 May 5 Easter	21 May 6 Easter	25 May Ascension Day
		THURSDAY
8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC	8.00am TMBA Bible Study & 9.00am HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC	7.30pm OAK HC
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		
Sunday, 21 May		
READINGS: Acts 17:16-31; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21		
HYMNS: 420 322 874 (162 839) 828		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible studies are set to resume in May:

TMBA: Sunday 21 May

GRN: Friday 19 May

AUB/OAK: Friday 26 May