

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

28 May 2017
Bulletin for 7 Easter

HYMNS: 113 392 352 175 177 508

INTROIT: God will arise. His enemies will scatter, so that those who hate Him will flee from Him.

As smoke is blown away, You will blow them away. As wax melts before the fire, wicked people will perish before God.

Nevertheless, righteous people will be glad. They will rejoice before God. They will be glad and rejoice.

Sing to God! Sing praise to His name! Prepare a road for Him who rides through the deserts! His name is the LORD. Be very glad in His presence!

God, who is in His holy dwelling-place, is the Father of the fatherless and the Defender of widows.

God places lonely people in homes. He leads prisoners out into prosperity, but rebellious people live in a scorched land.

O God, when You went out before Your people, when You marched through the wilderness the earth quaked, the heavens indeed poured down rain before God, the One of Sinai, before God, the God of Israel.

You caused a plentiful rain to fall, O God. You firmly established Your weary inheritance.

It was Your dwelling-place in which they settled. Out of Your goodness, O God, You prepared for needy people.

Psalm 68:1-10

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 king of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation, but send us the Spirit of truth, whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Acts 1:12-26 Matthias is chosen as an apostle.

1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11 "Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God."
John 17:1-11 Jesus prays for His disciples.

SERMON: 1 Peter 4:12-19 Our suffering for Christ links us closely with Christ
¹² Dearly loved people, do not be astonished at the fiery ordeal among you, by which you are being tested, as though something strange were happening to you!
¹³ However, rejoice in as far as you share in Christ's sufferings, so that you may also rejoice and be very glad when His glory is revealed! ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God is resting on you. ¹⁵ Of course, none of you should suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or one who meddles in the affairs of others! ¹⁶ However, if anyone suffers as a Christian, he should not be ashamed, but should glorify God for that name!
¹⁷ For it is time for the judgment to begin with the household of God. However, if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who re-fuse to listen to the Good News of God? ¹⁸ If it is hard for a righteous person to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and sinful person? ¹⁹ Therefore those who are suffering according to the will of God should commit their souls to the faithful Creator, as they continue to do good! ...

In Christ we are victorious

Do you wonder why your life is often a struggle? Do you wonder why your problems don't just evaporate even though you go to church and pray? Do you groan because of the carelessness, lovelessness, or recklessness of people in your family? Do you wonder why you still find certain sins so fascinating even when you've been burned by them before? Well, says Peter, wake up and realise what you're up against in your life. ⁸ *Be self-controlled and alert! Your enemy, the Devil, is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour,* (1 Peter 5:8). You have a fearsome enemy, one of the greatest of the spirit world, a dragon whose spiky tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky, that is, seduced other angels to join his rebellious

conspiracy (Revelation 12:3-4). What a dreadful thought - this evil, worldwide, powerful spirit is committed to dragging you off to hell too.

But here is the good news: the Descendant of the woman, prophesied in Eden, has crushed the serpent's head. His power to accuse (that's what the name devil actually means) is broken, for Christ has forgiven **all sin**. Satan's power to control and manipulate is broken, because the Spirit of the Lord lives in the believers and shares His strength. And now comes the great promise - Christ shares with you His power to rebuke Satan, and Satan has to obey you! As James says, "*Resist the devil, and he will flee from you,*" (4:7). One little word can indeed fell him, the word of the gospel, that there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. Stand firm in that faith, and remember that as you suffer, it doesn't necessarily mean there's something wrong with you. ⁹ *Be strong in your faith, and resist him, knowing that your fellow-Christians in the world are undergoing the same kinds of sufferings!* (1 Peter 5:9). Remember that your brothers and sisters in faith all over the world are suffering too as they wait for Christ to return and create a new heaven and a new earth.

The same God who called you to eternal glory through the gospel will not let your sufferings go on one minute longer than He allows, and He already has His plan of relief ready to go. From God's point of view, your sufferings last just a little while, for at just the right time our loving Father will come with strength and restoration. He will make the hurtful times serve you and the church by making you strong, firm, and steadfast. And you in turn will be a good counsellor for other people who struggle. Just thinking about the Lord's promises of restoration leads Peter to burst into another doxology of praise, "to Him be the power for ever! Amen."

Fighting, we shall be victorious
By the blood of Christ our Lord;
On our foreheads, bright and glorious
Shines the witness of His Word.
Our safe shield
On the field
Is His name, we cannot yield.

Hymn 201, v.3

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.

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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

4 June Pentecost	11 June Trinity Sunday	18 June 2 Pentecost
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	8.00am TMBA Bible Study and 9.00am HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC
Sunday, 4 June		
READINGS: Numbers 11:24-30; Acts 2:1-21; John 7:37-39		
HYMNS: 116 121 772 (305 323) 123		
Sunday, 11 June		
READINGS: Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Acts 2:14a, 22-36; Matthew 28:16-20		
HYMNS: 136 142 135 (286 323) 140		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday, 2 June, 7.00pm. Family Evening at Aubigny. Pizza etc is provided for a gold coin donation (Usually start eating 7.20). The theme for the night is "Teamwork." 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. EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!