

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

4 June 2017
Bulletin for Pentecost

HYMNS: 116 121 772 123

INTROIT: I am lifting up my soul to You, O LORD.

O my God, I trust in You. Let me not be put to shame! Let my enemies not gloat over me!

Certainly, **no one who waits in hope** for You **will be put to shame**. Those who act treacherously without any reason will be put to shame.

Make Your ways known to me, O LORD! Teach me Your paths!

Lead me in Your truth and teach me! For You are the God who saves me. I wait in hope for You all day long.

Remember, O LORD, Your compassionate and merciful deeds! For they have existed from eternity.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my rebellious acts! According to Your mercy remember me, because of Your goodness, O LORD!

The LORD is good and upright. Therefore He teaches sinners in the way.

He leads humble people in what is right, and teaches humble people His way.

All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth for those who keep His Covenant and His Testimonies.

For the sake of Your name, O LORD, pardon my guilt! For it is great.

Who, then, is the man who fears the LORD? He will teach him in the way that he should choose.

He himself will dwell in prosperity, and his descendants will inherit the land.

The intimate advice of the LORD is for those who fear Him, so that He causes them to know His Covenant.

My eyes are constantly on the LORD. For He will pull my feet out of the snare.

Psalm 25:1-15

COLLECT: O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Numbers 11:24-30 The Spirit causes Eldad and Medad to prophesy
Acts 2:1-21 The day of Pentecost
John 7:37-39 "If anyone is thirsty. Let Him come to Me and drink."

SERMON: Acts 2:1-21 The Church grows because of the Word of God

I will put My Spirit in you

Being a Christian is often dull, or worse, a drudgery. In our personal lives we can experience tragedy, grief, and set-backs. Our personal spiritual life often languishes because of hopelessly busy or complex lifestyles. In our congregation, we may at times feel worship is boring or lifeless. So what can we do to be renewed and invigorated? How may we find hope? Well, we ought not to look to ourselves. Pentecost proclaims that God has breathed His Spirit into us through the Word, giving us hope and new life.

The malady is that we tend to look for hope in places where God has not promised we will find it. We, like the Israelites who were at one time prisoners in Babylon, look at our wretched situation and long for a better life. We long to be at home with the Lord - back in Jerusalem. Yet we often look to ourselves - our intellect, ingenuity, or our emotions - for a sense of vibrancy. We often look to congregational programs or quick-fix strategies to lift us out of our despair. The Gospel may appear too weak to accomplish what we need. Yet these substitutes to which we often look will only disappoint us. Dead, dry, disconnected bones, like Ezekiel once saw (Ezekiel 37), would have a better chance to come together, grow flesh, and come to life!

It is to God's Word that we must look for life and hope. As Ezekiel did and said only what he was commanded to say, so must we. The Word is able to accomplish the miracle of giving life to dead, dry bones. Why? Here are three reasons:

1. *It is the Word of God:* It is God's powerful Word, giving life and hope. God does not leave us to fend for ourselves, or devise our own

strategies. He supplies us with his Word which brings into being something from nothing. As at creation when He spoke and it was, so now He speaks to us and we who were dead in sin are made alive.

2. *It is the Word of the Spirit:* The Word of the Gospel is the source of the Spirit for us, the life-giving Spirit who energises and encourages us. We have, all of us, received this gift through our baptism, through which God has put His Spirit in us.

3. *It is the Word of the resurrection:* It is the Word about Christ, who was put to death for our sins and raised to life so that we might have new life. It is the purpose of the Spirit to bring Christ to us. The Gospel of Jesus Christ, heard and received through the means of grace, breathes new life into us and gives us hope. But now He is risen! Because of what He has done for us, we have new life now - forgiveness, renewed spirits, and joy - and the promise of resurrection!

The meaning and significance of Easter is clarified at Pentecost with the outpouring of the Spirit, who bestows new life, resurrection, and hope. The Spirit, the breath of God, is in us through the Word. That means that our lives are no longer characterised by lifelessness or despair - the old way of life has passed away and died. Behold, the new has come! We are baptised - we have life, we have hope. God has spoken the Word, and in the saying of it He has done it: "I will put my Spirit in you," (Ezek. 37:14).

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.

Hymn 129, v.1

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.

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

COMING SERVICES

11 June Trinity Sunday	18 June 2 Pentecost	25 June 3 Pentecost
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	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC
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		
Sunday, 18 June		
READINGS: Exodus 19:2-8;	Romans 5:6-15;	Matthew 9:35-10:20
HYMNS: 347 852 326 (282 286) 221		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, June 7, 10.00am. Women's Guild at Oakey. Opening Devotion: *Kylie Wieck*. Key Word: *Help*. Item of Interest: *Baby Photo of Self*. Vicar Zabel will lead the study.

Date claimer for the next family night, a BUSHDANCE at Greenwood, to be held on Friday 7th July. You are welcome to invite friends as well.