

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

11 June 2017

Bulletin for Trinity Sunday

HYMNS: 136 142 135 286 323 140

INTROIT: O LORD, our Lord, how splendid is Your name in all the earth! O set Your glory above the heavens!

Out of the mouths of children and nursing infants You have established strength, because of **Your enemies,** that You may silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at Your heavens, which Your fingers have made, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, **what is man, that You should be mindful of him, and the son of man, that You should be concerned about him?**

You have made Him lower than the angels for a little while, and You have crowned Him with glory and honour.

You have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and even wild animals, the birds of the sky, and the fish of the sea, which pass through the paths of the seas.

O LORD, our Lord, how splendid is Your name in all the earth!

Psalm 8

COLLECT: Almighty and everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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.**

READINGS: Genesis 1:1–2:4a God creates

Acts 2:14a, 22-36 "God made this Jesus, whom you crucified, Lord, and Christ!"

Matthew 28:16-20 Make disciples of all nations

SERMON: Genesis 1:26-27 Made in the Image of God

²⁶ God said: "Let Us make man in Our image, in Our likeness, and let them rule over the fish in the sea, over the flying creatures in the sky, over the domestic animals, and over every kind of animal that crawls on the earth!" ²⁷ So God created man in His own image. He created them in God's image. He created them male and female.

O LORD, our Lord, how splendid is Your Name!

For God the work of creating huge galaxies was detailed handiwork, like fine needlepoint. We might think that the creation of mankind was even more trivial, since the whole human race is nothing but a microscopic speck compared to just one of God's stars. Yet God created Adam and Eve to have dominion over the universe. He created the sun, moon, and stars to serve them. He created man and woman in His image so they could be righteous and holy and live in happy fellowship with Him. The hundreds of millions of people huddled on the earth are only an insignificant speck in the vast reaches of the universe, yet there is more understanding and comprehension of God in the mind of one child than in millions of stars.

But through the fall into sin, mankind's fellowship with God was broken, and his dominion over the universe was diminished. We can still use the intelligence God has given us to gain a partial understanding and control over the world in which we live. But human beings no longer have an uncontested dominion over the earth. The peace that ruled in Eden is gone.

Now animals kill human beings. Human beings kill animals. And human beings slaughter other human beings. We live in a hostile environment. In spite of modern medicine, our control of diseases is imperfect. Even the tiniest viruses can kill us. We battle against weeds, pests, and diseases, against floods and droughts, in order to produce our food from the soil of the earth. We are killed by our own machines and poisoned by our own pollution. Thousands of people perish in earthquakes and other natural disasters. Inevitably the day comes when each of us must return to the ground from

which we were created.

Through sin mankind lost the dominion over the earth that God had entrusted to His highest creatures, but God sent Christ as the second Adam, the Son of Man, in order to regain the dominion we had lost and to restore it to us. Psalm 8 is quoted twice in the New Testament as a messianic prophecy that was fulfilled when Christ came and regained dominion over the world for us. As true God, Christ already had dominion over the whole universe. But when he was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, He took on a human nature like ours, though without sin. In this state He undertook the work of regaining our lost dominion for us.

During his state of humiliation, God “*made Him lower than the angels for a little while.*” This points to the lowly appearance of Jesus during His humiliation. During His stay on earth Jesus did not look like God or even like an angel, but like an ordinary man. Psalm 8 was fulfilled throughout Jesus’ ministry on earth when He assumed the form of a humble servant. Jesus was made “*lower than the angels for a little while*” when He was helped by angels at the time of His temptation and in Gethsemane (Matthew 4:11; Luke 22:43). Psalm 8 was fulfilled when Jesus’ enemies refused to recognise Him as God and instead ridiculed Him as a lowly carpenter and when they mocked Him on the cross. Psalm 8 was also fulfilled at Calvary when Jesus cried, “*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*” (Matthew 27:46).

But Jesus did not stay in this humble condition. When He had finished His work of defeating sin, death, and the devil, He ascended to heaven and was seated at the right hand of God. He now has all power in heaven and on earth. He is crowned with honour and glory. Psalm 8:6 is quoted in 1 Corinthians 15:27 as a statement of Christ’s rule over all things.

Just as Adam brought death to all people, so Christ, the second Adam, won life for all people. Adam lost the dominion that had been entrusted to him, but Christ is now ruling the world for the benefit of His people. He will share this dominion with them in the new heavens and the new earth. There the peace of Eden will exist once again. Sin made the glorious view of mankind expressed in Psalm 8 untrue, but Christ, the Son of Man, has made it true once again. When we understand this truth, we can repeat the refrain of this psalm with greater appreciation: “*O LORD, our Lord, how splendid is Your name in all the earth!*”

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

18 June 2 Pentecost	25 June 3 Pentecost	2 July 4 Pentecost
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	8.30am TMBA LR 8.30am OAK LR 10.00am Minden HC AELC Mission Day Service
Sunday, 18 June		
READINGS: Exodus 19:2-8;	Romans 5:6-15;	Matthew 9:35-10:20
HYMNS: 347 852 326 (282 286) 221		
Sunday, 25 June		
READINGS: Jeremiah 20:7-13;	Romans 6:12-23;	Matthew 10:5a, 21-33
HYMNS: 463 400 112 (327 65) 200		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, 13 June, 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Oakey. Opening devotion: Jeff Ziebell.

BIBLE STUDIES:

TMBA, Sunday 18 June

GRN: Friday 16 June, 7.30pm.

AUB/OAK: Friday 23 June, 7.30pm.

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.