

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

2 July 2017

Bulletin for the 4th Sunday after Pentecost

HYMNS: 323 324 329 258

INTROIT: Look at my affliction, and rescue me! For I have not forgotten
Your Instruction.

Defend my case and redeem me! Preserve my life according to Your
Promise!

Salvation is far from wicked people. For they have not been intent on Your
Prescriptions.

Your acts of compassion are many, O LORD. Preserve my life according to
Your Decisions!

My persecutors and my adversaries are many, but I have not turned away
from Your Testimonies.

I have seen those who act faithlessly, and I have been loathing them. For
they have not been keeping Your Word.

See how I love Your Directions! O LORD, preserve my life according to
Your mercy!

The summary of Your Word is Truth. Every one of Your righteous
Decisions endures for ever.

Psalm 119:153-160

COLLECT: Lord, You have made us Yours through Your constant love,
and You never fail to help and guide us. Give us a continual reverence
and love for Your holy name. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ
our Lord, who lives and reigns, with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for
ever and ever. Amen.

READINGS: Jeremiah 28:5-9 The prophet who prophesies peace is
recognised as the prophet whom the LORD has sent

Romans 7:1-13 An illustration from marriage and struggling with sin

Matthew 10:34-42 Do not think that I have come to bring peace!

SERMON: 1 Peter 3:13-17 The Beginnings of the Lutheran Church

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behaviour in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

All Christians are Ambassadors for Christ

(Matthew 10:34-42)

On the night of Jesus' birth the angels proclaimed to the shepherds, "On earth peace to men on whom His favour rests," (Luke 2:14). Jesus, the Prince of peace, came to establish peace between God and sinful humanity. He reconciled us to God by offering Himself as the perfect sacrifice to atone for all sins. Yet the majority of this world's people prefer to think that they can do what is necessary to establish their own peace with God, and they resent anyone who tells them anything different. That is why a consequence of Jesus' coming is not peace, but a sword.

Enemies of Christ are hostile toward Christians, and sometimes that hostility even leads to bloodshed. Sadly, the unbelievers' victims may even be members of their own households. In order to avoid such bad blood within the family circle, Christians are tempted to hide their faith or even to deny their Lord. But anyone who is more concerned about his relationship with his relatives than about his relationship with his Lord is making a disastrous choice.

In today's Gospel Jesus asks us to bear our cross (Matt. 10:38). The cross Jesus asks us to bear is not a reference to troubles and sufferings in general, but only to suffering that we are called upon to endure because of our faith. Some Christians are called upon to bear much heavier crosses than others, but our Lord promises that He will give us the strength we need, so that our crosses will not overwhelm us but bring us closer to our Saviour. To lose one's life for Jesus' sake is to give oneself completely into His hands, body and soul (v.39). It is to make oneself a living sacrifice to

the Lord. In the process, the Christian lives abundantly now and will live in eternal glory with his Saviour hereafter. But those who concentrate on the things of this life jeopardise their eternal salvation. He who gains the whole world but loses his soul has made a poor bargain indeed!

Jesus concludes His instructions to His disciples by pointing out how they will be a blessing to others (v. 40-42). Those who welcome and provide for Jesus' messengers are serving the Lord Himself, and He will acknowledge and graciously reward that service. A prophet's reward or a righteous man's reward is not eternal salvation. We do not earn heaven by anything we do for God or for any of God's messengers. We rather share in the blessings they receive through the Word of God: peace with God, patience in time of tribulation, confidence to pray, and the like. We receive eternal salvation through faith in Christ alone, but here Jesus speaks of the blessings with which God graciously rewards our fruits of faith, our good works, even such a simple gesture as giving a cup of cold water to a thirsty child. When we do this as an expression of our Christian faith, God is pleased, and He will find a way to reward us. We may forget, but our Lord will remember every act of service. But anyone who does so-called deeds of charity in order to gain recognition or some other reward will be sadly disappointed. Without faith it is impossible to please God, and faith does not seek recognition.

All Christians are ambassadors for Christ, whether they are full-time workers in Christ's church or earning their living in some other occupation. So we all do well to remember and ponder the warnings, the instructions, and the promises Jesus gave His disciples when He sent them out to invite people into His kingdom.

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

Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 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

9 July 5 Pentecost	16 July 6 Pentecost	23 July 7 Pentecost
8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC	8.00am TMBA PR JZ and 9.00am Bible Study 8.30am OAK HC 10.00am GRN HC 10.30am AUB PR JZ	8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC
Sunday, 9 July		
READINGS: Zechariah 9:9-12; Romans 7:14-25a; Matthew 11:25-30		
HYMNS: 12 306 335 (368 372) 219		
Sunday, 16 July		
READINGS: Isaiah 55:10-13; Romans 8:12-17; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23		
HYMNS: 336 361 199 (54 847) 390		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, 5 July, 10.00am. Women's Guild at Oakey. Opening Devotion: Julie Zischke. Key Word: Hidden. Item of Interest: Place Mat.

Friday 7th July, 7.00pm Family BUSHDANCE, Greenwood Church Hall,. You are welcome to invite friends as well. Please bring a plate for supper. Phone Jane Sippel for more information 0488722074

Saturday, 8 July, 10.00am. Seminary Committee Meeting at Troys Road.

Pastor no longer has a home phone. PLEASE MAKE ALL CALLS TO:
0407 583922.