

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

8 October 2017

Bulletin for the 18th Sunday after Pentecost

HYMNS: 318 312 313 317

INTROIT: O God of hosts, restore us, and cause Your face to shine, that we may be saved!

You uprooted a vine from Egypt. You drove the nations out and planted it.

You cleared the ground for it. It put down its roots and filled the land.

The mountains were covered with its shade, and the mighty cedars with its branches.

It sent out its branches to the Sea, and its shoots to the River.

Why have You broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way have been plucking its fruit?

The wild boar from the forest is ravaging it, and the small creatures of the field are feeding in it.

O God of hosts, please return! Look down from heaven and see! Take care of this vine, of the root-stock that Your right hand has planted, and of the cutting that You have let grow strong for Yourself!

The vine has been burnt with fire and cut down. They are perishing at the rebuke of Your countenance.

Let Your hand be on the man at Your right hand, the son of man whom You have let grow strong for Yourself!

Then we shall not be disloyal to You. Give us life again! Then we shall call on Your name.

O LORD, God of hosts, restore us! Make Your face shine, that we may be saved!

Psalm 80:7-19

COLLECT: Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men, who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; 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: Isaiah 5:1-7 Song of the vineyard.

Philippians 3:4b-14 I consider everything as a loss because of the greatness of knowing Christ my Lord.

Matthew 21:33-46 Tenants of the vineyard.

SERMON: 1 John 1:5-2:2 Confession

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us.

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. But if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

God Instituted Marriage

God instituted marriage. Moses recorded the institution in Genesis. He wrote, *“The LORD God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him’ ... So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man,”* (Gen. 2:18-23). God gave the first man the insight to be able to recognise the gift God had given him. Adam said, *“This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man,”* (Gen. 2:23). The Lord then said (cf Mt 19:5-6), *“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh,”* (Gen. 2:24). The primary purpose of marriage, then, is companionship. As Solomon observed, *“He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favour from the LORD,”* (Prov. 18:22).

There was also another purpose that God had for marriage. We read in Genesis, *“God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it,’”* (Gen. 1:28). Procreation, the producing of children, is also a purpose of marriage. Children are a blessing from the Lord. The psalmist wrote, *“Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from Him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one’s youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them,”* (Ps. 127:3-5). In this age when people may look on children as a burden, it needs to be stressed that children are a blessing from the Lord. Procreation is what we call the secondary purpose of marriage.

Since the fall into sin, there is also a third purpose of marriage, and that is for the preservation of the sexual purity of man and woman. God intends sexual

relations to be part of the marriage union between one man and one woman. The sexual union is part of the companionship between a husband and a wife. It also has the purpose of producing children. It is to be practiced in the context of a man and woman committed to each other until death separates them, who will also serve as a loving and nurturing unit to raise the children who result from the union. God placed into man and woman by creation the desire for sexual union. This desire is not in and of itself sinful. It is part of God's creation of which we read, "*God saw all that He had made, and it was very good,*" (Gen. 1:31). The writer to the Hebrews tells us, "*Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure,*" (Heb. 13:4). The Lutheran Confessions also address this issue. They state:

The natural desire of one sex for the other sex is an ordinance of God in nature. For this reason it is right; otherwise why would both sexes have been created? ... We are speaking not about lustful desires, which is sin, but of that desire called physical love. Lustful desire has not removed this physical love from nature, but inflames it, so that now physical love has greater need of a cure. Marriage is necessary not only for the sake of procreation but also as a remedy. (Ap XXIII:12-13)

Some people do not feel the need for marriage. Paul wrote, "*I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that. Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am. But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion,*" (1 Cor. 7:7-9; cf Mt 19:11-12). The outlet for human sexuality is marriage. Sex is not a recreational activity to be indulged in with anyone a person feels like at the moment. This is not freedom but a slavery to one's own passions. Marriage is for the preservation of the sexual purity of man and woman. It might sound stale to mention this, but it is well to do it in the face of the "free love" attitude we face in society today. If sex were reserved for marriage, we might see fewer problems with sexually transmitted diseases and the host of other problems that come along with violations of the Sixth Commandment. Free love is never free; there is a huge price to pay for it.

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

15 October 19 Pentecost	22 October 20 Pentecost	29 October Reformation Sunday
8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA PR JZ 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	10.00am AUB HC AELC Service
Sunday, 15 October		
READINGS: Isaiah 25:6-9;	Philippians 4:4-13;	Matthew 22:1-14
HYMNS: 71 386 221 (398 65) 391 TMBA & AUB: 318 312 313 317		
Sunday, 22 October		
READINGS: Isaiah 45:1-7;	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10;	Matthew 22:15-22
HYMNS: 113 456 372 (848 175) 459		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tonight, 7.30pm. Choir practice at Oakey.

Tuesday, 10 October, 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Oakey.

Wednesday, 11 October, 10.00am. Women's Guild at Oakey. Opening Devotion: Jane Sippel. Key Word: Home. Item of Interest: Salad Bowl.

Saturday, 14 October, 10.00am. CoC/Seminary Committee meeting at Troys Road.

50th Anniversary of the Reformation Celebrations:

Sunday, 22 October, 7.30pm. Reformation Hymn Singing Evening at Trinity Oakey.

Sunday, 29 October, 10.00am. AELC Reformation Day Service at St John's Lutheran Church, Aubigny, followed by a shared lunch and afternoon session, concluding at 2.30pm.

Tuesday, 31 October, 7.30pm, Trinity Oakey. Shared tea (could each family please provide cold meat, salad etc) followed by a Vespers Service beginning at 8.30pm.