

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

15 October 2017

Bulletin for the 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**HYMNS:** 71 386 221 398 65 391

**INTROIT:** The LORD is my shepherd. I shall not lack anything.

He makes me lie down in green pastures. He **leads** me **to water** where there is quiet.

He restores my soul. He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of deep darkness, I shall fear no evil.

For You are with me. Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows.

Surely, goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Psalm 23

**COLLECT:** Almighty God, You invite us to trust in You for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of Your judgment, but by the greatness of Your mercy; 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 25:6-9 The Lord will prepare a banquet

Philippians 4:4-13 Rejoice in the Lord

Matthew 22:1-14 The parable of the wedding banquet

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.**

## **SERMON: Isaiah 25:6-9 The Lord has prepared a feast**

<sup>6</sup> On this mountain the LORD of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet with aged wines, rich foods full of marrow, and refined, aged wines. <sup>7</sup> On this mountain He will destroy the surface of the shroud that is covering all peoples and the blanket that has been woven over all nations. <sup>8</sup> He will swallow up death for ever. The Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and He will remove the disgrace of His people from the whole earth. For the LORD has spoken. <sup>9</sup> On that day people will say: "Look! This is our God. We have been waiting for Him to save us. This is the LORD, for whom we have been waiting. Let us rejoice and be glad that He has saved us!"

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### **Eternal Life**

Eternal life is also a fact. Jesus said, "*God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life,*" (John 3:16). Life is the enjoyment of the blessings of God. Physical life is the enjoyment of the physical blessings of God. Spiritual life is the enjoyment of the spiritual blessings of God. When Adam and Eve sinned, they lost spiritual life and became spiritually dead (Eph. 2:1). Only through faith in Jesus is spiritual life restored. When we believe that God has forgiven our sins for Jesus' sake, we can again rejoice in the presence of God. It is in the enjoyment of God's gracious love that our spiritual life consists.

Heaven is the continuation and the full enjoyment of that full life which began when we were brought to faith by the Holy Spirit. We have eternal life now already (John 5:24; 6:47). This new life we have with God will never end. Jesus said, "*I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die,*" (John 11:25,26).

What will heaven be like? When the Bible describes heaven, it often speaks in terms of what will not be there. That is because we simply do not have the ability in our sinful state to understand or appreciate all that heaven will be.

Concerning eternal life Paul wrote, "*And so we will be with the Lord forever,*" (1 Thess. 4:17). The chief joy of eternal life is that we will be forever in the presence of our loving God and Saviour. The Bible does not speak of a carnal type of heaven, which Muslims hope for. Heaven will not be full of the material pleasures people long for in this life, such as wine, women, and song. Rather, in heaven we will live forever in the loving presence of our Saviour. It wouldn't be heaven without Jesus!

In heaven we will enjoy what has been called the beatific vision. Jesus had said, "*I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of My Father in heaven,*" (Matt. 18:10). The good angels always behold the face of God. There never is a time when they do not see Him. In a similar way, we also will be granted the blessed vision of always being able to see our loving Saviour. John wrote, "*We know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is,*" (1 John 3:2). Job said, "*I myself will see Him with my own eyes - I, and not another,*" (Job 19:27). David wrote, "*And I - in righteousness I will see Your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing Your likeness,*" (Ps. 17:15).

This blessed vision of God will serve to confirm believers in holiness. It will not be

that God by His almighty power prevents us from sinning. Rather, those in heaven will have no desire to do anything but the will of God. We will be like the good angels, who were confirmed in holiness after they obeyed God. As Jesus said, *“They can no longer die; for they are like the angels,”* (Luke 20:36). Death is the wages of sin. If there is no death, there is no sin. It will be impossible for those in heaven to fall away. The church father Origen (A.D. 185-289) believed that there could be no virtue unless there was a possibility of sinning. Thus he held that angels and resurrected believers are subject to temptation and apostasy. Yet John describes heaven in this way: *“On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there,”* (Rev. 21:25). The gates of a city were shut when there was danger of an attack. Such danger never threatens the heavenly Jerusalem. Therefore, its gates never need closing.

In heaven we will have glorified bodies patterned after the resurrection body of Christ (Phil. 3:21). We will be like the angels. Jesus said, *“Those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels,”* (Luke 20:35-36). We shall know our earthly spouses in heaven. We will enjoy their company forever. But the institution of marriage is for this life only. The ordinary family relationships we know here on this earth will not apply in heaven.

We look forward to a blessed reunion in heaven with our loved ones who also died in faith in Christ. Paul wrote, *“For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever,”* (1 Thess. 4:16-17).

In heaven, the painful separation brought about by death will be over. We will be reunited with our loved ones around the Saviour’s throne of grace. In heaven, the curse of sin will be removed. John writes of heaven, *“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain,”* (Rev. 21:4). As Isaiah described it, *“The sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it [Jerusalem] no more. Never again will there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years,”* (Is. 65:19-20).

Jacob described his life as *“my years have been few and difficult,”* (Gen. 47:9). But John wrote of heaven, *“Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat,”* (Rev. 7:16). *“The old order of things has passed away,”* (Rev. 21:4). It will be as David wrote, *“You have made known to me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasures at Your right hand,”* (Ps. 16:11).

*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](http://www.aelc.org.au).

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

## COMING SERVICES

22 October 20 Pentecost	29 October Reformation Sunday	5 November 22 Pentecost
8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC	10.00am AUB HC AELC Service	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC
<b>Sunday, 22 October</b>		
READINGS: Isaiah 45:1-7;                      1 Thessalonians 1:1-10;                      Matthew 22:15-22		
HYMNS: 113   456   372   (848   175)   459		
<b>Sunday, 29 October</b>		
READINGS: Revelation 14:6-7;                      Romans 3:19-28;                      John 8:31-36		
HYMNS: 195   324   248   613 LSB (LH tune 247)   622 LSB (LH tune 289) 287   865 LSB (LH tune 254)		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tonight, 7.30pm. Choir practice at Oakey.

### BIBLE STUDIES:

Greenwood. Friday 20 October, 7.30pm.

Aubigny/Oakey, Friday 27 October, 7.30pm at the Aubigny hall.

### 500<sup>th</sup> 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.