

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

5 November 2017
Bulletin for All Saints' Day

HYMNS: 327 213 199 74 75 556

INTROIT: Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, His praise in the assembly of devout people!

Let Israel rejoice in its Maker! Let the children of Zion be joyful over their King!

Let them praise His name with dancing! Let them make music to Him with tambourine and lyre!

For the LORD takes pleasure in His people. He glorifies humble people with salvation.

Let devout people be jubilant in glory! Let them shout for joy on their beds!

Let the high praises of God be in their throats, and double-edged swords in their hands, to carry out vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples, to tie up their kings with chains, and their nobles' feet with iron shackles, to carry out the judgment that has been written against them! This is an honour that belongs to all His devout people. Praise the LORD!

Psalm 149

COLLECT: Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys that You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, 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: Revelation 7:2-17 The great multitude in white robes.

1 John 3:1-3 "See what great love the Father has given to us."

Matthew 5:1-12 The Beatitudes

SERMON: Revelation 7:9-17 Clothed in Robes of Righteousness, washed
in the Blood of the Lamb

⁹ After this, I looked, and saw a large crowd that no one could count, from every nation and all tribes, peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes, and carrying palm-branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They called out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

¹¹ All the angels were standing around the throne, around the elders, and around the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, ¹² saying: "Amen! Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honour, power, and strength be to our God for ever and ever! Amen."

¹³ Then one of the elders asked me: "Who are these people who have been clothed in the white robes, and where have they come from?"

¹⁴ I replied to him, "My master, you know."

He told me: "These are the people who have come out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and have made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ Therefore they are before the throne of God and keep serving Him day and night in His temple, and He who is sitting on the throne will shelter them with His tent. ¹⁶ They will not be hungry any more or thirsty any more. The sun will certainly not beat on them, or any scorching heat, ¹⁷ because the Lamb, who is in the middle of the throne, will be their Shepherd, and He will lead them to springs of the water of life. God will wipe every tear from their eyes."

Children of God!!!

In our Second Reading today, John says, *"¹ See what great love the Father has given to us, that we are called "the children of God"! That is what we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it has not known Him. ² Dearly loved people, we are now the children of God, but it has not yet been shown what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him because we shall see Him as He is. ³ Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."*

Children of God! Amazing! But it was not always so. When we first entered this world, it was as God's enemies. God had other adjectives to describe our first status - foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved. The dominant emotions that govern the lives of sinful rebels are malice, envy, and hatred, says Paul in Titus 3:3.

God calls believers by various new names: we are His servants, a nation, His royal subjects, priests, soldiers. But the dearest term of all is that He calls us His

children. And that's not just an honorary title - He has literally adopted us into His family, making us brothers and sisters of His Son, Jesus, through Baptism. Paul writes in Galatians 3:26 that we are all God's children through faith in Christ Jesus, for all who were baptised into Christ have been clothed with Christ. Our baptismal certificates are also our adoption papers.

What a great fear and doubt destroyer it is to be God's children! This is not a patronising term - the point is not to make us feel little, like babies. The point is to make us feel loved, important, and secure. God the Father has solemnly obligated Himself to do for us what all good fathers do for their children - provide for our daily needs, protection, and guidance. He provides us with a sense of being worth something, of being precious. He is there for us in emergencies just as good fathers bail their children out of trouble. When we need help, when we pray, we don't have to feel as though we are approaching a stranger. We are talking to our Father! We can call on a relationship that He initiated - it was His idea, His doing, His adoption, not ours. He stooped down to us since we couldn't climb up to Him.

Because we are now wearing Christ's holiness, we have everlasting life in us already. We don't know as yet exactly how our heavenly bodies will differ from our earthly bodies. But we can get a pretty good idea that it will be wonderful, because we will be like Jesus. Imagine that - He loves us so much that He kept His body even after the resurrection and ascension, just so that He could remain our human brother forever! Paul says in Philippians 3:21 that by the power that enables Jesus to bring everything under His control, He will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body. Wow! Is this worth waiting for or what? If these are the promises waiting for us, why would we go off looking for something better? What new revelations, new insights, or new knowledge could the gnostic cults offer that is better than that?

For now, that father-child relationship is not visible to the rest of the world. Frankly, to the naked eye, we don't look like heavenly royalty. But even if we don't get any respect from the rest of the world, that is no cause to doubt the Father's love - most of the world couldn't figure out that Jesus was God's Son either.

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

12 November 23 Pentecost	19 November 24 Pentecost	26 November Last Sunday of Church Year
8.00am Bible Study and 9.00am HC TMBA 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC	8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR **Pastor away	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC (Baptism)
Sunday, 12 November		
READINGS: Amos 5:18-24; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13		
HYMNS: 101 487 385 (335 333) 616		
Sunday, 19 November		
READINGS: Zephaniah 1:7-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30		
HYMNS: 315 485 17 488 (tune 311)		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, 7 November, 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Oakey.

Bible Studies:

TMBA: Sunday, 12 November

GRN/AUB/OAK: combined study on Friday, 24 November at Oakey.