

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

1 April 2018
Bulletin for Easter Day

HYMNS: 88 761 105 91 839 95

INTROIT: Protect me, O God! For I have taken refuge in You.

I have been saying to the LORD: "You are my Lord. Without You I have nothing good."

As for the holy people who are in the land, they are the excellent people, and all my delight is in them.

Those who run after another god will have many sorrows. I shall not pour out their libations of blood or take up their names on my lips.

O LORD, You are my allotted portion and my cup. You are firmly holding what has been allotted to me.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places. Surely, I have a delightful inheritance.

I shall bless the LORD, who has given me advice. Even during the nights my inmost parts teach me.

I have set the LORD before Me constantly. Because He is at My right hand, I shall not stagger.

Therefore My heart is glad, and My glory rejoices. My body also will dwell securely. For You will not abandon My soul to Sheol, or allow Your Faithful One to see decay.

You make known to Me the path of life. In Your presence there is fullness of joy. At Your right hand there are pleasures for ever.

Psalm 16

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.**

COLLECT: Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, 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's banquet of life.

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 The resurrection of Jesus and His appearances.

Mark 16:1-8 Christ has risen!

SERMON: Hebrews 7:23-27 Jesus is our eternal High Priest

²³ Many were made priests because death prevented them from continuing. ²⁴ However, because Jesus continues for ever, the Priesthood that He has is permanent. ²⁵ Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He is always alive to intercede for them. ²⁶ For such a High Priest is what we needed, who is holy, blameless, spotless, separated from sinners, and has been made higher than the heavens. ²⁷ He has no need to offer sacrifices every day, like those high priests, first for His own sins, and then for the sins of the people. For He did this once for all when He offered Himself.

The Resurrection of Jesus from the dead

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is important for three major reasons:

1. It proves that Jesus is God. Jesus said that He would rise from the dead. ¹⁹ *Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple! I shall raise it in three days."* ²⁰ *Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it in three days?"* ²¹ *However, He was speaking about the temple of His body, (John 2:19-21). "¹⁷ The reason why the Father loves Me is that I lay down My life, in order that I may take it back again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it back again. This command I have received from My Father,"* (John 10:17-18). He did what He said He would do. There are some religious leaders who have told their followers they would be in touch with them after they died. No one has heard from them yet. Therefore, they were fakes and frauds. However, Jesus rose from the dead. He is not a fake or a fraud. He demonstrated by His resurrection that He,

in fact, is true God. The Apostle Paul said, “*who, according to His holy divinity, was declared with power to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead,*” (Rom. 1:4).

2. Jesus’ resurrection proves that God accepted His payment for sin and our sins are forgiven in full. Paul declared that Jesus was “*raised to life for our justification,*” (Rom. 4:25). He said, “*If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins,*” (1 Cor. 15:17). Jesus’ resurrection was God’s great “absolution” of the world. He announced to the whole world that we are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. If Christ had not risen from the dead, His “*It is finished*” (John 19:30) would have meant His mission had ended in failure. His resurrection, however, declared that God’s mission was accomplished. We are forgiven!

3. Jesus’ resurrection also assures us that we shall rise again from the dead. The idea of a physical resurrection from the dead is contrary to human reason. Reason tells us that when a person dies, the flesh decays and will be no more. The Epicureans, among the Greeks, believed that, upon death, a person’s atoms simply returned to the pool of atoms in the universe. When Paul proclaimed the resurrection while in Athens, the people laughed at him. They had listened attentively until he spoke of the resurrection. That was too much for them. Many people walked away in scorn.

How do we know that we will rise again? Jesus rose from the dead. Paul calls Him “*the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep,*” (1 Cor. 15:20). Jesus said, “*I am the Resurrection and the Life. The person who believes in Me will live even if he dies,*”²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will assuredly never die,” (John 11:25-26). “*Because I live, you also will live,*” (John 14:19). Paul wrote, “*we believe that Jesus died and rose again, we believe that even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep... The Lord Himself will come down from heaven... and the dead who are in Christ will rise first,*” (1 Thess. 4:14, 16). Jesus’ resurrection from the dead is the guarantee of our resurrection.

Welcome to all with us today! Happy Easter!

Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 0407583922.

Email him at paziebell@gmail.com

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

8 April 2 Easter	15 April 3 Easter	22 April 4 Easter
		Good Shepherd Sunday
8.30am TMBA 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 HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC
Sunday, 8 April		
READINGS: Acts 4:32-35;	1 John 1:1-2:2;	John 20:19-31
HYMNS: 100 103 97 (356 148) 763		
Sunday, 15 April		
READINGS: Acts 3:11-21;	1 John 3:1-7;	Luke 24:36-49
HYMNS: 164 221 434 (840 325) 767		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tomorrow, 2 April, 10.00am. Parish Picnic at Aubigny. Could each family please provide something for a shared lunch? Children, don't forget to bring your colouring-in picture to enter it in the colouring-in competition.

Tuesday, 10 April, 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Oakey. Opening devotion: Jeff.

Confirmation lessons resume on Wednesday the 18th of April.