

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

8 April 2018
Bulletin for the 2nd Sunday of Easter

HYMNS: 100 103 97 763

INTROIT: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens!

Praise Him in the heights above!

Praise Him, all you His angels! Praise Him, all His hosts!

Praise Him, sun, and moon! Praise Him, all you stars of light!

Praise Him, you heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD! For He commanded and they were created.

He set them in position for ever and ever. He gave a decree that will not pass away.

Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, fire and hail, snow and fog, wind and storm, which carry out His Word, you mountains and all hills, you fruit trees and all cedars, you wild animals and all cattle, you reptiles and winged birds, you kings of the earth and all peoples, you princes and all judges on the earth, you young men and also you maidens, you old men together with young people!

Let them praise the name of the LORD! For His name alone is exalted. His majesty is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for His people, praise from all His devout people, from the people of Israel, the people who are close to Him! Praise the LORD!

Psalm 148

COLLECT: Almighty God, grant that we, who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection, may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Acts 4:32-35 The believers share their possessions.

1 John 1:1-2:2 We walk in the light.

John 20:19-31 Jesus appears to the disciples and to Thomas.

SERMON: John 20:19-31 Jesus has demonstrated that He rose from the dead

¹⁹ That Sunday evening the doors had been locked where the disciples were, because they were afraid of the Jews. Then Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you!"

²⁰ After He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. So the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I also am sending you."

²² After He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit! ²³ If you forgive any people's sins, they have been forgiven; if you retain any people's sins, they have been retained."

²⁴ However, Thomas, one of the twelve, who was called "The Twin," was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord."

He told them, "Unless I see the marks of the nails in His hands and put my finger into the marks of the nails and put my hand into His side, I shall certainly not believe."

²⁶ A week later, His disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors had been locked, Jesus came, stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

²⁷ Next He told Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at My hands! Take your hand and put it into My side! Stop your unbelief and believe!"

²⁸ Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Jesus asked him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed!"

³⁰ Jesus also performed many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples, which have not been written in this book. ³¹ However, these things have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that, believing, you may have life in His name.

Jesus was risen from the dead

Unbelievers throughout the New Testament have denied Christ's resurrection. So today, we find so many scoff at the idea of a risen Lord. Many have lost the true meaning of Easter with its resurrection message.

On that first Easter morning, there was a great earthquake, and an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and rolled back the stone. When the guards came to their senses, they went into the city and told the chief priests "everything that had happened." We presume they must have told the unvarnished truth - "The tomb is empty. There was another earthquake. An angel came down, rolled the stone away from the tomb, and said that Jesus had risen. All we can say for sure is that the disciples did not steal His body while we were on duty."

On hearing this, the chief priests do not even bother to try to dispute the facts with the guards. They accept their report as accurate and true. After all, the report is not coming from the disciples or some other interested party. So, the first thing the chief priests did was to consult with the elders of the people. They had worked together to accuse Jesus before Pilate (27:12); now they worked together to try to cover up the truth. The chief priests of Jesus' day bribed the soldiers to tell the story that Jesus' disciples had stolen His body at night while the soldiers were sleeping (Matt. 28:11-15). In so doing they hardened their hearts against God. Matthew does not say where the money came from to pay off the guards. Maybe it came out of the same account from which they had gotten the 30 pieces of silver for Judas Iscariot. Matthew also records that this story was widely circulated among the Jews to this day.

Today many critics of the Bible dismiss the resurrection of Jesus as something the disciples imagined. They deny that it is a historical event (as Karl Barth and Rudolph Bultmann did in the age of neo-orthodoxy). The following quote from a liberal Roman Catholic theologian is illustrative of what we so often hear from biblical critics today:

The resurrection: It's historicity. Did it happen? *Something* happened after the death of Jesus... Jesus' followers were convinced that He had indeed been raised from the dead... Is it a historical event, therefore? The answer has to be "No" if by historical one means an event that could have been photographed as it was occurring, or that a disinterested person could have observed happening. There is no indication in the New Testament record that the early Church believed the resurrection to have been in the very same category of history as the crucifixion. [*Notice how this writers assertion ignores the evidence concerning how the apostles described themselves as eyewitnesses to Christ's resurrection, as mentioned numerous times in the Scriptures*] ... To concede that the resurrection is not a historical event in our ordinary sense of historical event [*something open to scientific investigation and verifiable by neutral witnesses*] does not mean the resurrection was not a real event for Jesus with historical implications for others... It would seem better to speak of the resurrection as *transhistorical*, or *metahistorical* [*terms used to reject the historical nature of Christ's resurrection*], rather than unhistorical.

All we can say is that those who deny the historical nature of Christ's resurrection lose the assurance of a risen Saviour and all He has done to save us. They have shipwrecked their faith (1 Tim. 1:19). On the other hand, we have the assurance of our forgiveness and eternal life in heaven because of Jesus' resurrection. With the hymn writer we say:

He lives, and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare,
He lives to bring me safely there.

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

15 April 3 Easter	22 April 4 Easter	29 April 5 Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday		
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	8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR
Sunday, 15 April		
READINGS: Acts 3:11-21; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36-49		
HYMNS: 164 221 434 (840 325) 767		
Sunday, 22 April		
READINGS: Acts 4:1-12; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18		
HYMNS: 387 151 200 (289 290) 391		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, 10 April, 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Oakey. Opening devotion: Jeff
 Confirmation lessons resume on Wednesday the 18th of April.