

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

15 April 2018
Bulletin for the 3rd Sunday of Easter

HYMNS: 164 221 434 840 325 767

INTROIT: Answer me when I call, O my righteous God! You have made wide room for me in my distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer!

O sons of man, how long will my glory be disgraced? How long will you love what is empty and search for what is a lie?

Know that the LORD has singled out for Himself the one who is devout. The LORD will hear when I call to Him.

Tremble, and do not sin! Tell this to yourselves on your beds, and be silent!

Offer righteous sacrifices, and trust in the LORD!

Many are saying, "Who will show us anything good?" Lift up the light of Your face on us, O LORD!

You have put more joy in my heart than people have when their grain and their new wine have increased.

Let me at once lie down in peace, and sleep! For You alone, O LORD, will make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 4

COLLECT: O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; 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: Acts 3:11-21 The God of Abraham has glorified His Servant Jesus.

1 John 3:1-7 See what great love the Father has given us, that we are called the "children of God"!

Luke 24:36-49 Jesus appears to the disciples.

SERMON: Luke 24:36-49 Jesus opened the tomb and now opens our minds

³⁶ While they were talking about what had happened, Jesus stood among them. He said to them, "Peace to you!"

³⁷ They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He asked them, "Why are you troubled? Why do doubts come into your minds?" ³⁹ Look at My hands and My feet! It is I Myself. Feel Me and see! A ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see Me have."

⁴⁰ After He said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.

⁴¹ While they were still so overwhelmed with joy that they could not believe it, He asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?"

⁴² They gave Him a piece of broiled fish. ⁴³ He took it and ate it while they watched Him.

⁴⁴ He told them, "These are the very words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, namely, that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what Scripture has said: 'The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and, based on His name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.' ⁴⁸ You will testify to these things.

⁴⁹ "I am sending you what My Father has promised. Wait here in the city until you are armed with power from above!"

CONFESSION BETWEEN CHRISTIANS

Confessing sins publicly in the Divine Service and privately with the pastor does not exhaust the role of confession in a Christian's life. We also are to confess our sins to one another, whenever we become aware that we have not loved our neighbour as God commands us to and that we have hurt others, particularly in words spoken or omitted, and in actions taken or neglected.

God's great plan to destroy the evil one's power in our lives is to drown it in God's forgiveness. He wants this forgiveness to be on our lips constantly, flowing freely all the time and in all directions. So, if I was preoccupied and so spoke grumpily to my spouse in the morning, God gives me the gift of recollecting myself, turning to her before I head out to

work, and saying: "That was uncalled for on my part. I am sorry. I shouldn't have spoken to you in that tone of voice. Will you forgive me?" Then God gives her the gift of saying: "Yes, in God's name, I forgive you. Be at peace."

This constant humbling of ourselves as we stumble along in the Christian life together is the absolute key to genuinely Christian marriages, families, congregations, and friendships. We start all of these relationships knowing that we all are corrupted by original sin and confident that we will let each other down from time to time. But what holds us together as God's people is what never lets us down: forgiveness. Forgiveness asked and then imparted.

This is an area where we truly need a bit of work. We need to lose the noncommittal: "It's okay. Don't worry about it." We need to recover the full-blooded: "I forgive you. I forgive you in the name of Jesus, our great High Priest." None of us on our own has the capacity to forgive to the extent that others whom we love have the capacity to hurt and disappoint us. But in Jesus there is a fountain of forgiveness that is inexhaustible.

Remember how Peter wanted a reasonable limit: "Lord, how often shall I forgive my brother when he keeps sinning against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus blows the numbers away: "I tell you, not up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven," (Matthew 18:21-22).

Peter was astounded, as are we. We don't have this capacity inside ourselves; we'd struggle to scrounge up the willingness to forgive the seven times. But Peter is asking this of the One who is the forgiveness of all of the sins of the whole world. In Him, we have come to a fountain of forgiveness that we cannot exhaust either for ourselves or for others. As we live in Him and His forgiveness, we set one another free constantly. This private use of the Office of the Keys is one of the great joys of Christian piety. "Be kind to one another and tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you!" (Ephesians 4:32).

We forgive sincerely from our hearts. We are able to do this because we are now living lives of love, imitating our heavenly Father. "We love because He first loved us," (1 John 4:19).

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

22 April 4 Easter	29 April 5 Easter	6 May 6 Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday		
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	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC
Sunday, 22 April		
READINGS: Acts 4:1-12;	1 John 3:16-24;	John 10:11-18
HYMNS: 387 151 200 (289 290) 391		
Sunday, 29 April		
READINGS: Acts 8:26-40;	1 John 4:1-11;	John 15:1-8
HYMNS: 461 181 170 279		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Studies are set to resume in May.