

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

13 May 2018

Bulletin for the 7th Sunday of Easter

HYMNS: 96 186 239 643

INTROIT: Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of wicked people, stand in the path of sinners, or sit in the seat of scoffers!

Rather, his delight is in the Instruction of the LORD, and on His Instruction he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted beside streams of water, which produces its fruit in its season, and has leaves that do not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

The ungodly are not like that, but are like the chaff that the wind blows away.

Therefore wicked people will not stand in the judgment, or sinners in the assembly of righteous people.

For the LORD knows the way of righteous people, but the way of wicked people will perish.

Psalm 1

COLLECT: O king of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation, but send us the Spirit of truth, whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Acts 1:12-26 Matthias is added to the apostles

1 John 5:9-15 Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart

John 17:11b-19 As You have sent Me... I have sent them

SERMON: John 17:11b-19 We are in the world, but not of the world

Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name that You have given Me, so that they may be one, as We are one! ¹² While I have been with them, I have kept them in Your name, which You have given Me. I have watched over them, and none of them has been lost except the one who will be lost, so that the Scripture may be fulfilled. ¹³ Now I am coming to You, and I say these things while I am in the world, so that they may have a full measure of My joy in them. ¹⁴ I have given them Your Word, but the world has hated them, because they do not belong to the world, as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the Evil One. ¹⁶ They do not belong to the world, as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷ Make them holy by the truth! Your Word is truth. ¹⁸ As You have sent Me into the world, I have also sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For their sakes I set Myself apart as holy, that they also may be set apart as holy by the truth.

How to Kill a Church in Just a Few Easy Steps¹

Matt Walsh

The Episcopal Church announced this week that it would be removing the words “man,” “woman,” and “procreation” from its marriage liturgy. Of course, the Episcopalians have long since removed Christ from their liturgy, so this latest move is no surprise.

I refer to them as the Episcopal Church only loosely. They are a church in the same way that the Church of Satan is a church. They are an anti-church. Rather than a body of Christian believers, they are a body of self-worshiping heretics. And a very small body at that.

Episcopalians have been skidding into oblivion for decades now. They lost over 30% of their members during the ‘90s. In this century, they’ve been losing about 2% a year. Today there are fewer Episcopalians in America than Jews or Mormons. This is significant because the latter groups have always been relatively small minorities in America, while the Episcopal church was once the largest church in the nation. It’s been all downhill since then.

What happened? You can easily track the church’s stunning decline over the past several decades and see that it corresponds to the church’s shedding of Christian orthodoxy in favour of liberal orthodoxy. It began, as always, with the embracing of birth control and divorce. Then they moved to the ordination of women. Then it was a straight line to the ordination of openly gay clergy and the approval of same sex marriage. Now there is nothing surprising about seeing a feminist Episcopal priest blessing an abortion clinic or a transgender priest leading a service in a church adorned with rainbow flags. And it is even less surprising to look around the church and notice that nobody is sitting in the pews.

¹ Taken from www.dailywire.com

Why would they come and sit in the pews? What would be the point? The message of liberal Christianity is: “You’re perfectly fine exactly the way you are. Everything you’re doing is acceptable. Make no changes. Keep up the great work!” A weak person may be happy to hear that message, but they need not hear it twice. They need not come back for it week after week. They need only receive the affirmation and then continue along living just as they were before. Just as lost, just as confused, just as hopeless. The Episcopal Church, like any worldly church, has already given all it has to offer — which is nothing at all.

If a person wants worldliness, they can go literally anywhere to get it. If they want lectures on diversity and inclusion, they can stop by the Human Resources office at work, or maybe have a chat with a public-school guidance counsellor. If they want encouragement to continue in their sin, Satan is happy to use a whole variety of methods to communicate that encouragement. And most of those methods will be far more entertaining and enjoyable than anything the crusty old Episcopal Church can provide.

But if a person wants to pursue something higher; if he wants to be rescued from the dreariness of modern culture; if he wants to find his real and transcendent identity; if he wants to be challenged; if he wants meaning, then he has even less reason to turn to Episcopalianism or any similar variety of Christianity. It is not substantial enough. It is not different enough. It is not saying enough. It is not asking enough of him.

That is the great secret that “progressive” and “inclusive” Christian leaders are too high on the fumes of humanism to notice or understand. Religions grow when they expect more of their adherents, not less. Religions thrive when they provide a lifestyle that is radically different from the dull, hollow lifestyle provided by the world. People turn to religion for identity. And if all they find is more of the same, more of what caused them to go looking in the first place, they will not be converted. If a church wants to grow (and, more importantly, if it wants to save souls), it must have the boldness to completely and entirely reject the teachings of the world and preach instead the teachings of Christ.

The Episcopal Church has something to teach all Christians, it turns out. Look to them to learn how churches become irrelevant and useless. But whatever you do, don’t look to them to learn theology.

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

20 May Pentecost	27 May Trinity Sunday	3 June 2 Pentecost
8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC (Baptism)	8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.30am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC
Sunday, 20 May		
READINGS: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15		
HYMNS: 119 122 775 (848 64) 437 GRN: 280 122 775 848 64 437		
Sunday, 27 May		
READINGS: Isaiah 6:1-8; Acts 2:14a, 22-36; John 3:1-17		
HYMNS: 139 140 457 (175 358) 779		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE STUDIES:

Greenwood, Friday 18 May, 7.30pm.

Oakey/Aubigny, Friday 25 May, 7.30pm.

PLEASE take a copy of the CoC minutes home with you today.