

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

17 June 2018

Bulletin for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**HYMNS:** 267 116 377 847 171 515

**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:** Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we embrace and ever hold fast to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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:** Ezekiel 17:22-24 God's promise of hope.

2 Corinthians 5:1-17 The love of Christ compels us.

Mark 4:26-34 The growing seed and the mustard seed.

**SERMON:** 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 We are confident because of what Christ has done in the body

<sup>1</sup> For we know that, if the earthly tent in which we live is demolished, we have a house from God, not made by human hands, eternal in heaven. <sup>2</sup> To be sure, in this dwelling we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling that is from heaven, <sup>3</sup> since, after we have put it on, we shall not be found naked. <sup>4</sup> For we, who are in this tent, groan as we are weighed down, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to put on the additional clothing, that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup> God is the One who has prepared us for this very thing and who has given us the Spirit as the guarantee. <sup>6</sup> Therefore, we are always confident. We know that, while we are at home in this body, we are in a strange land, away from the Lord. <sup>7</sup> For we live by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup> We are confident and even prefer to move out of the body and to be at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup> Now, whether we are at home or in a strange land, we aspire to please Him. <sup>10</sup> We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due to him according to what he has done while in the body, whether good or bad.

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### **The Bodily Benefit**

We live in an age that is both obsessed with body image and denies the body has any lasting significance beyond death. One day the body is honed and toned through exercise and plastic surgery, and the next it is cremated and scattered to the winds.

The Christian view of the body recognises its value now and calls us to holiness in our bodily actions. "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body," (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; cf. Romans 12:1). At the same time, we recognise the great value of the body after death, knowing that God will raise us up again from the dead. One particular Lutheran rite of burial includes a passage that reminds the mourners that God is not finished with this body we now lovingly lay in the ground. "Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself," (Philippians 3:20-21).

At the Lord's Supper, the Christian is fed both body and soul. Some have inferred a bodily benefit to the Lord's Supper through the admonition St. Paul gives about unworthy eating. "Anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on Himself. That is why many of you are weak and

ill, and some have died,” (1 Corinthians 11:29-30). This bodily benefit that comes from the forgiveness of sins is not one that we should look to for giving us athletic prowess or to free us from every infirmity. It is a much greater benefit: the power of the resurrection. That is one majestic result of being in communion with the resurrected Jesus. We shall also rise from the dead on the strength of His victorious body and blood. In one of Luther’s two great works about the Lord’s Supper, he connects the Lord’s Supper with our coming resurrection.

This is a bodily benefit... an extraordinarily great one, and it follows from the spiritual benefit... If we eat him spiritually through the Word, he abides in us spiritually in our soul; if one eats him physically, he abides in us physically and we in him. As we eat him, he abides in us and we in him. For he is not digested or transformed but ceaselessly he transforms us, our soul into righteousness, our body into immortality. (AE 37:132)

This bodily benefit leads us back to the beginning, where man was created by God to live and not die, to partake of the tree of life. In the parables of Jesus, the kingdom of God is often likened to a great banquet, such as a feast for the marriage of the king’s son (e.g., Matthew 22:1-14). The Book of Revelation takes up this same theme: “Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb” (19:9). This marriage takes place in a new city, new Jerusalem, where God dwells with man (Revelation 21:2-3), where the feast-prophecy of Isaiah 25 is fulfilled: “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore” (Revelation 21:4). There in that city, new Jerusalem, is the tree of life, perpetually in bloom, a tree that heals the world (Revelation 22:2).

In the Supper, we receive Jesus in His body and blood. This moment, as the church gathers together around Jesus and His Word, is the one moment that makes sense out of all the other troubles and arguments and sins and death. There at His Supper, Jesus is putting everything to rights for us. The Holy Communion is the Gospel, and while it is everything, it is also provisional. In His Supper, Jesus is preparing us for a yet greater feast, when we shall walk in the new city, free from sadness, free from shame, and be truly alive. Nothing shall harm us, for we will have free access to the tree of life, whose leaves are for the healing of the nations.

This is our great hope. This Table of the Lord is our great protection against the gates of hell. When the Table is set for us, there is nothing left to say but the Bible’s closing prayer: “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” (Revelation 22:20).

*Welcome to all worshipping with us today! May God bless our worship of Him by His serving of us!*  
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 Email him at [paziebell@gmail.com](mailto:paziebell@gmail.com)  
 Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at [www.aelc.org.au](http://www.aelc.org.au).  
**Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.**

## COMING SERVICES

| 24 June<br>5 Pentecost  | 1 July<br>6 Pentecost   | 8 July<br>7 Pentecost   |
|---|---|---|
| 8.30am TMBA HC<br>8.30am OAK LR<br>9.30am GRN LR<br>10.30am AUB HC                                  | 8.30am OAK LR<br>8.30am TMBA LR<br>9.30am GRN LR<br>9.30am AUB LR | 8.30am OAK LR<br>8.30am TMBA LR<br>9.30am GRN LR<br>9.30am AUB LR |
| <b>Sunday, 24 June</b>  |   |   |
| READINGS: Job 38:1-11;                      2 Corinthians 6:1-13;                      Mark 4:35-41 |   |   |
| HYMNS: 392 524 341 (320 408) 199  |   |   |
| <b>Sunday, 1 July</b>   |   |   |
| READINGS: Lamentations 3:22-33;    2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-15;    Mark 5:21-43                      |   |   |
| HYMNS: 439 870 372 386  |   |   |

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday, 22 June, 7.30pm. Bible Study in the hall.

Some parish members have asked that the following be announced:

Creation Ministries International has upcoming conferences being held on the Sunshine Coast:

Sunday, 15 July, 5.30pm at Grace Christian Church Buderim, 2-4 Toral Dr, Buderim.

Also, a super conference is coming up from 2-5 October, on the Sunshine Coast. Visit [www.creation.com/superconference](http://www.creation.com/superconference) for more information or call 07 33409888.