

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

26 August 2018  
Bulletin for the 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**HYMNS:** 147 324 327 346

**INTROIT:** The fool has been saying in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt. They have been acting abominably. **There is no one who does good.**

The LORD has been looking down from heaven on the descendants of Adam to see **if there is anyone who understands and who seeks God.**

**Everyone has turned aside. Together they have become corrupt. There is no one who does good. There is not even one.**

Have all evildoers no knowledge? They devour my people as if they were devouring food. They have not been calling on the LORD.

There they have been trembling in terror. For God is with the generation of righteous people.

You people frustrate the plan of the poor person, but the LORD is his refuge.

If only the **salvation** of Israel would come **from Zion!** When the LORD turns back the captivity of His people, let Jacob rejoice! Let Israel be glad!

Psalm 14

**COLLECT:** Almighty and merciful God, defend Your Church from all false teaching and error, that Your faithful people may confess You to be the only true God and rejoice in Your good gifts of life and salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**READINGS:** Isaiah 29:11-19 I shall again do wonderful things with this people.

Ephesians 5:22-33 wives and husbands.

Mark 7:1-13 Clean and unclean.

**SERMON:** Ephesians 5:22-33 A marriage relationship patterned after our relationship with Jesus Christ

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### **God instituted Marriage**

God instituted marriage. Moses recorded the institution in Genesis. He wrote, *The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I shall make him a helper, suitable for him" ... The LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep, and, while the man was sleeping, He took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. Then the LORD God fashioned the rib that He had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man,* (Gen. 2:18-23). God gave the first man the insight to be able to recognise the gift God had given him. Adam said, *"This at last is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. She will be named 'woman,' because she has been taken from 'man'"* (Gen. 2:23). The Lord then said (cf. Matt. 19:5-6), *"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh,"* (Gen. 2:24). The primary purpose of marriage, then, is companionship. As Solomon observed, *"He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favour from the LORD,"* (Prov. 18:22).

There was also another purpose that God had for marriage. We read in Genesis, *"Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth, and bring it under your control!"* (Gen. 1:28). Procreation, the producing of children, is also a purpose of marriage. Children are a blessing from the Lord. The psalmist wrote, *"Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from Him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them,"* (Ps. 127:3-5). In this age when people may look on children as a burden, it needs to be stressed that children are a blessing from the Lord. Procreation is what we call the secondary purpose of marriage.

Since the fall into sin, there is also a third purpose of marriage, and that is for the preservation of the sexual purity of man and woman. God intends sexual relations to be part of the marriage union between one man and one woman. The sexual union is part of the companionship between a husband and a wife. It also has the purpose

of producing children. It is to be practiced in the context of a man and woman committed to each other until death separates them, who will also serve as a loving and nurturing unit to raise the children who result from the union. God placed into man and woman by creation the desire for sexual union. This desire is not in and of itself sinful. It is part of God’s creation of which we read, “*God saw all that He had made, and it was very good,*” (Gen. 1:31). The writer to the Hebrews tells us, “*Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure,*” (Heb. 13:4). The Lutheran Confessions also address this issue. They state:

The natural desire of one sex for the other sex is an ordinance of God in nature. For this reason it is right; otherwise why would both sexes have been created? ...we are not speaking of lustful desires, which is sin, but of that desire called physical love. Lustful desire has not removed this physical love from nature, but inflames it, so that now physical love has greater need of a cure. Marriage is necessary not only for the sake of procreation, but also as a cure. (Ap XXIII:12-13)

Some people do not feel the need for marriage. Paul wrote, “*I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that. Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am. But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion,*” (1 Cor. 7:7-9; cf. Matt. 19:11-12). The outlet for human sexuality is marriage. Sex is not a recreational activity to be indulged in with anyone a person feels like at the moment. This is not freedom but a slavery to one’s own passions. Marriage is for the preservation of the sexual purity of man and woman. It might sound stale to mention this, but it is well to do it in the face of the “free love” attitude we face in society today. If sex were reserved for marriage, we might see fewer problems with sexually transmitted diseases and the host of other problems that come along with violations of the Sixth Commandment. Free love is never free; there is a huge price to pay for it.

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

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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

2 September 15 Pentecost	9 September 16 Pentecost	16 September 17 Pentecost
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 HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC
<b>Sunday, 2 September</b>		
READINGS: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Ephesians 6:10-20; Mark 7:14-23		
HYMNS: 499 329 200 (319 [tune 247] 842) 197		
<b>Sunday, 9 September</b>		
READINGS: Isaiah 35:4-7a; James 2:1-10, 14-18; Mark 7:24-37		
HYMNS: 161 450 356 (325 294) 508		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, 5 September, 10.00am. Women’s Guild at Trinity Marburg. Pastor Ohlson will lead our Bible Study, then we will have an early shared lunch followed by a guided tour of the Emu Farm at Marburg. Cost is \$6.00 per person. Husbands are invited to attend our meeting. Ladies, please note, we will not be following our regular program for the day (no need to bring an item of interest etc.).

Friday, 7 September, 7.00pm. Family Evening bushdance at Greenwood. Bring a plate for a shared supper and remember to invite your friends!

Saturday, 8 September, 10.00am. CoC/Seminary Committee meeting at Minden.