

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

9 September 2018

Bulletin for the 16th Sunday after Pentecost

HYMNS: 161 450 356 325 (294) 508

INTROIT: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

Let me praise the LORD throughout my life! Let me sing praise to my God as long as I live!

Do not trust in noble people, in a descendant of Adam, who cannot save!

When his spirit departs, he will return to his earth. On that day his plans will perish.

Blessed is the one who has the God of Jacob for his help! His hope is in the LORD, his God, **who has made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them**, who remains faithful for ever, who provides justice for those who are oppressed, and who gives food to those who are hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free.

The LORD opens the eyes of blind people. The LORD raises up those who are bowed down. The LORD loves righteous people.

The LORD watches over resident-foreigners. He helps up the orphan and the widow. However, He makes the way of wicked people crooked.

The LORD will reign for ever, Your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

Psalm 146

COLLECT: O Lord, let Your merciful ears be open to the prayers of Your humble servants and grant that what they ask for may be in accord with Your gracious will; 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 35:4-7a The salvation of our God.

James 2:1-10, 14-18 Do not prefer the rich. Keep the whole Law. Faith is active.

Mark 7:24-37 The Syro-Phoenician woman's faith; and the healing of the man who was deaf and dumb.

SERMON: Mark 7:31-37 The amazing works of Jesus

³¹ Jesus again left the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee and through the region of the Decapolis.

³² Some people brought to Him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk and begged Jesus to lay His hand on him. ³³

Jesus took him away from the crowd to be alone with him and put His fingers into the man's ears. Then He spat and touched the man's tongue. ³⁴ He looked up to heaven, groaned and said to him, "Ephphatha!" which means, "Be opened!" ³⁵ Immediately the man's ears were opened, the bond of his tongue was untied, and he began to speak plainly. ³⁶

Jesus ordered the people not to tell anyone. However, the more He forbade them the more widely they kept telling about it. ³⁷ They were extremely amazed. They said, "He has been doing everything well. He even makes deaf people hear and dumb people speak."

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.**

Jesus is God

During His earthly ministry Jesus demonstrated His power as God over the created world in His miracles. We see Jesus performing a miracle today in our Gospel Reading. To be sure, in the Bible we have a record of miracles that were performed by prophets in the Old Testament and apostles in the New Testament. But their miracles had one significant difference when compared with the miracles of Christ. All of their miracles were derivative in nature; that is, they were performed by the prophets and apostles as representatives of God, either by some specific command or impulse from God or in response to their prayers or in the name of Jesus (e.g., the miracles recorded throughout the book of Exodus, as well as those recorded in 1 Kings 17; 2 Kings 4-7; Luke 10:17; Acts 3:1-16; 5:1-16; 14:8-18). But Jesus' miracles were all performed at His own will and under His own authority. Notice, for example, the prayer of the leper in Mark 1. The leper acknowledges that Jesus has the power to take away the leprosy, if only Jesus wills it. Jesus responds, "I am willing... Be clean!" (Mark 1:40-42). Only God has such authority and the power to perform such works on His own authority.

Exactly the authority of Jesus as God was at issue when Jesus forgave the sins of the paralytic mentioned in Mark

2:1-12. The authority to forgive sin ultimately belongs only to God. For sin is first and foremost an offense, a rebellion, against God. But Jesus forgave the man's sin and did so on His own authority. Precisely to prove that He is God and thus has the authority to forgive sin, Jesus healed the paralytic, likewise on His own authority.

Even in the matter of His own earthly life and death Jesus demonstrated His divine power. He declared that He would lay down His life of His own free will and then take it up again of His own volition (John 10:14-18). It might be easy enough for someone to make such a claim. Jesus however proved that this was no idle boast. When the officers came to arrest Him, it was not their power that prevailed but His (John 18:3-9). When He died on the cross, the moment of His death was of His own choosing (John 19:30). His rising from the dead proved that He had the power over life and death, that He was telling the truth when He said that He had power to lay down His life and then to take it up again. Most important, only God could claim that this work was sufficient to pay for the whole world's sin and guilt. He is the world's Saviour and He its final judge. And by it all He does what only God could do; as the Author of life He gives us eternal life (John 3:16; 5:19-30). In short, He is God-true, eternal, everlasting God - as His divine names declare and as His divine works demonstrate.

Because He has divine names, divine attributes, and divine works, He is entitled to the worship that is reserved for God alone. Those who do not worship Him do not worship God. In His earthly ministry He claimed such worship for Himself (John 5:23; 8:58) and demonstrated that He was entitled to it (Luke 9:18-36); both before and after His resurrection He accepted such worship (Matthew 14:33; 16:16; John 20:28). The mission of the church has been from the beginning a mission of proclaiming Christ as God and Saviour who is worthy of worship because of who He is and most blessedly because of what He has done for us and for our salvation. The very first sermon preached after the birth of the church on Pentecost was filled with references to Christ as God and Saviour (Acts 2:14-36). And the last book of the Bible proclaims that truth from beginning to end (Revelation 1:5-19; 22:7-21). Because He is God and Saviour, all owe Him worship. All of the epistles call us to the confession of the same truth, a truth so beautifully summed up by St. Paul in Philippians 2:10-11, when he tells us that *"at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

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

16 September 17 Pentecost	23 September 18 Pentecost	30 September 19 Pentecost
8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC	8.00am TMBA Bible Study & 9.00am HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC	10.00am GRN HC Parish Service
Sunday, 16 September		
READINGS: Isaiah 50:5-10;	James 3:1-12;	Mark 9:14-29
HYMNS: 526 241 378 (789 848) 441		
Sunday, 23 September		
READINGS: Jeremiah 11:18-20;	James 3:13-4:10;	Mark 9:30-37
HYMNS: 507 364 434 (54 383) 873		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, 11 September, 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Oakey. Opening devotion: Robert.

Bible Studies:

TMBA: Sunday, 23 September.

GRN: Friday, 14 September.

AUB/OAK: Friday, 21 September.