

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

23 September 2018

Bulletin for the 18th Sunday after Pentecost

HYMNS: 507 364 434 (54 383) 873

INTROIT: O God, save me by Your name, and bring justice to me by Your might!

O God, hear my prayer, and open Your ears to the words from my mouth!

For strangers have risen up against me, and violent men have been seeking my life. They have not set God before themselves.

Surely, God is my Helper. The Lord is with those who support my life.

He will repay my enemies for their evil. Destroy them in Your truth!

Let me sacrifice a freewill offering to You! I shall praise Your name, O LORD, because it is good.

For He has delivered me out of every trouble, and my eye has been gloating over my enemies.

Psalm 54

COLLECT: O God, whose strength is made perfect in weakness, grant us humility and childlike faith, that we may please You in both will and deed; 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: Jeremiah 11:18-20 A plot against Jeremiah's life.

James 3:13-4:10 Wisdom from above. Do not love the world. Resist the devil.

Mark 9:30-37 The servant of all is the greatest.

SERMON: Mark 9:30-37 Jesus continues to serve us today

³⁰ They left that place and were passing through Galilee, and Jesus did not want anyone to know about it. ³¹ For He was teaching His disciples and telling them: "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, but, after He has been killed, He will rise on the third day."

³² They did not understand what He said and were afraid to ask Him.

³³ Then they came to Capernaum. When He had come into the house, He asked them, "What were you discussing on the road?"

³⁴ They kept quiet. For on the road they had been discussing who the greatest was. ³⁵ Jesus sat down and called the Twelve. He told them, "If anyone wants to be the first, he must be the last of all and the servant of all!"

³⁶ He took a little child and set him among them. He put His arms around him and told them, ³⁷ "Whoever welcomes one of the little children like this one in My name welcomes Me. Whoever welcomes Me welcomes not Me but the One who has sent Me."

The Family

God has established three estates for our blessing and benefit. They are: The family, the church, and the government. The family is the fundamental and the most important of the three estates. To the extent that the family succeeds, both the church and the state may prosper. To the extent that God's arrangement for family life is despised and set aside, to that extent both church and state are threatened and weakened. Indeed, the destruction of the state and of civil society almost always has the decay of the family at its root and its primary cause.

The young especially need to be carefully instructed in God's intentions for our blessing through His institution and regulation of family life. That is so in order that they may give God's intentions for them careful thought as they set about forming families of their own. Such instruction is of vital importance especially because society and often its elders have made such a mess of family life that decent models of God-pleasing family life may be very hard to find.

What then does God's Word have to say about the family? First of all, we note already at the creation of Adam and Eve (Genesis

1, 2) that God established three basic purposes for marriage and the family. He declared that it would not be good for Adam to remain alone and without human companionship. And so, as His greatest gift to Adam, God created Eve and gave Adam and Eve to each other. Their companionship was a great gift and blessing indeed and a primary purpose of marriage; companionship remains a blessing and purpose that God still intends for marriage.

The second purpose that God gave for marriage in the Garden of Eden was the bearing and rearing of children (Genesis 1:28). Children are spoken of in the Bible as a blessing of the Lord. Psalm 127 reads, ¹ *If the LORD does not build a house, those who have been building it have been labouring over it in vain. If the LORD does not watch over a city, the watchman has been staying alert in vain.* ² *It is in vain for you to get up early, to stay up until late, and to eat hard-won food. For He certainly gives sleep to those whom He loves.* ³ *Indeed, children are an inheritance from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.* ⁴ *Children who have been born in one's youth are like arrows in the hand of a warrior.* ⁵ *Blessed is the man who has filled his quiver with them! Such men will not be ashamed when they speak with their enemies at the city-gate.* It is from children that we gain a special insight into the grace and love of God. For just as children can neither earn nor repay their parents for their status as children and for the love and care lavished on them by their parents, so also we as children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. We too can neither earn nor deserve that status, nor ever repay God our Father for the love and care that He lavishes on us.

At the same time we imitate His love and grace in caring for the children that God entrusts to our care. Additionally, in the simplicity and trust of little children we see again the nature of that faith which we have in God as our Father; we get to understand just a little bit better and with greater appreciation what it means when we are called the children of God. Yes, and not least we have the honor of being missionaries as we give back to God at their baptisms the children He has given us. What an honour God has given to parents that parents should imitate God's love for them as they love and train their children with His Word!

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

30 September 19 Pentecost	7 October 20 Pentecost	14 October 21 Pentecost
10.00am GRN HC Parish Service	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
Sunday, 30 September		
READINGS: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; James 5:1-20; Mark 9:38-50		
HYMNS: 119 217 463 852 285 451		
Sunday, 7 October		
READINGS: Genesis 2:18-25; Hebrews 2:1-18; Mark 10:2-16		
HYMNS: 345 588 167 (842 840) 602		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday, 30 September. Please bring something for a shared lunch, and remember to place your offering in envelopes marked back to your own congregation.

We would like to get a social group going for high school aged children and we would like to know who would be interested in this. We would like to have some suggestions regarding what day and time to have it, how often, and what activities. Also, if there are any volunteers to help run it, they would be most welcome. We were thinking maybe Saturday or Sunday afternoon and some things in the school holidays, depending on what suited most people. We have come up with some ideas for activities including biking, electronic games, camping, cooking, outdoor cinema, Cooby dam, Christmas decorations, mechanic lessons, kloud nine, ten pin bowling, board games, card games, laser tag and swimming. If you have any suggestions, please reply to the Australian Evangelical Lutheran Church facebook group, or ring Julie Zischke on 0419 855 457 or email Sherry Eising on eisingsherry@gmail.com.