

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

30 September 2018

Bulletin for the 19th Sunday after Pentecost

HYMNS: 119 217 463 852 285 451

INTROIT: O LORD, how many are the things that You have made! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your property.

All of them wait for You to give them their food at the right time.

You give it to them, and they gather it up. You open Your hand, and they are satisfied with good things.

You hide Your face, and they are terrified. You take away their breath, and they expire and return to their dust.

You send out Your Spirit, and they are created, and You renew the surface of the earth.

May the glory of the LORD endure for ever! May the LORD rejoice in what He has made!

He looks at the earth and it trembles. He touches the mountains and they smoke.

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

May my meditation be pleasing to Him! I shall rejoice in the LORD.

May sinners perish from the earth, and may there no longer be any wicked people! Bless the LORD, O my soul!

Praise the LORD!

Psalm 104:24, 27-35

COLLECT: Everlasting Father, source of every blessing, mercifully direct and govern us by Your Holy Spirit that we may complete the works You have prepared for us to do; 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: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 Moses chooses seventy leaders.

James 5:13-20 The power of prayer, and the duty to bring back the lost.

Mark 9:38-50 The unknown exorcist, and temptations to sin.

SERMON: Mark 9:38-50 Salt is good

³⁸ John told Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone who is not one of us driving out demons in Your name. We tried to stop him because he was not one of us."

³⁹ Jesus said, "Do not try to stop him! For no one who works a miracle in My name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of Me.

⁴⁰ For he who is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ For truly, I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because of your name as followers of Christ will certainly not lose his reward.

⁴² "If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a heavy millstone were put around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea. ⁴³ If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off! It is better for you to enter life maimed than to go into hell with two hands, into the fire that will never be put out. ⁴⁴ If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off! It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. ⁴⁵ If your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out! It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, ⁴⁶ where their worm does not die, and the fire is not put out.

⁴⁷ "For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁴⁸ Salt is good. However, if salt loses its saltiness, how will you make it taste salty again? Have salt in yourselves and be at peace with one another!"

The need and answering of Prayer.

Some have questioned the need for prayer. They have reasoned, "God knows all things. Therefore, God knows what we need. God is love. Therefore, God will give us what we need. Therefore, why pray? Such reasoning disregards the specific commands God gives us to pray as well as the fact that the Bible tells us prayer is a great privilege.

We pray because we have a need to be in communion with God. As David wrote, "My heart says of You, 'Seek His face!' Your face, LORD, I will seek. Do not hide Your face from me, do not turn Your servant away in anger," (Ps. 27:8-9). We cannot find peace apart from communion with God. The essence of heaven is that we will have the beatific vision of God, always beholding His face.

We pray because it is God's will that we pray. Paul wrote, "Pray continually," (1 Thess. 5:17). We pray because God invites us to pray. We pray because we have needs to bring before God. David prayed to God when he fled from his son Absalom (Psalm 3).

Jesus prayed for strength as He faced the goal of His life, His suffering for the sins of the world (Luke 22:39-46). The tax collector prayed for forgiveness from God (Luke 18:13). We pray because others have needs. Abraham prayed for Lot (Gen. 18:23-32). The centurion prayed for Jesus to help his sick servant Matt. 8:6).

So, will God answer every prayer of a Christian? The psalmist answers, “The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and saves them,” (Psalm 145:18-19). James points out that God answered the prayer of Elijah and withheld rain from Israel for three and a half years (James 5:17). Yes, God will hear and answer the prayers of a Christian.

Yet we also need to note that God answers prayers in His own time. Jesus’ mother came to Him at the wedding of Cana. She wanted Jesus to help since the hosts had run out of wine. Jesus answered, “My time has not yet come,” (John 2:4). Jesus did help, but when the time was right. Jesus did not immediately give the Syrophenician woman an answer to her prayer. He seemed to ignore her pleas at first. He did help, when the time was right (Mark 7:24-30). The Lord did not immediately give Job relief from his misery. He did help when the time was right.

The Lord also helps in His own way. When we ask the Lord to take away a problem, He can help us in one of three ways. He can take the problem away. He can allow the problem to remain but give us the strength to bear the problem, as He did in the case of Paul (2 Cor. 12:9). Finally, the Lord can also take us away from the problem by taking us to himself in heaven. As Isaiah observed, “The righteous perish and no one ponders it in his heart; devout men are taken away, and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil,” (Is. 57:1).

Certainly, we can and must may bring all our requests to God with the assurance that He will hear and answer our prayers in the way that is best for us, when it is best for us.

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

Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 0407583922.

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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

7 October 20 Pentecost	14 October 21 Pentecost	21 October 22 Pentecost
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	8.00am Bible Study & 9.00am HC TMBA 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC
Sunday, 7 October		
READINGS: Genesis 2:18-25; Hebrews 2:1-18; Mark 10:2-16		
HYMNS: 345 588 167 (842 840) 602		
Sunday, 14 October		
READINGS: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Hebrews 3:12-19; Mark 10:17-22		
HYMNS: 164 359 149 (53 847) 512		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, 3 October. 10.00am. Women’s Guild at Oakey. Opening Devotion: Leanne
Key Word: Instruction. Item of Interest: Something beginning with “H”

Tuesday, 9 October, 7.30pm. Men’s Fellowship at Oakey.

Friday, 12 October, 7.00pm. Family Evening at Aubigny. Pizza etc is provided for a gold coin donation (usually start eating around 7.20), followed by games and activities, a devotion and hymns. The evening finishes with supper about 9pm, please bring a plate. Contact Jane Sippel 0488722074 for more info.

BIBLE STUDIES:

Tmba, Sunday 21 October

Grn, Friday 19 October

Aub/Oak, Friday 26 October