

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

25 November 2018

Bulletin for the Last Sunday of the Church Year

HYMNS: 272 735 338 219

INTROIT: The LORD reigns; He is clothed with majesty; the LORD has clothed Himself; He has fastened on strength as His belt. Surely the world is firmly established; it cannot be moved.

Your throne was set in place long ago. You are from eternity.

The rivers have lifted up, O LORD, the rivers have lifted up their voice; the rivers are lifting up their pounding waves.

The LORD in His place on high is mightier than the sounds of many mighty waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea.

Your testimonies are very reliable. Holiness adorns Your house, O LORD, for days without end.

Psalm 93

COLLECT: O God, heavenly Father, let Your Holy Spirit direct and govern our lives, so that we may remain aware of the final purpose of all things, and also of Your day of judgment. Inspire us to live holy lives and grant that we may fix our eyes on our eternal home with You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

READINGS: Isaiah 51:4-6 "Pay attention to Me, My people!"

Jude 20-25 A call to persevere.

Mark 13:24-37 Beware, and be on the alert.

SERMON: Mark 13:24-37 Be on the alert

Christ is coming again for the final judgment

The Bible makes it very clear that Jesus is coming again to judge the world. Even Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about this. In Jude we're told that Enoch prophesied, "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of His holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against Him," (vv. 14-15). The Old Testament spoke of Christ's second coming. Job declared, "In the end He will stand upon the earth," (19:25). The Psalms speak of the Lord's return in judgment (58:11; 75:7; 96:13). The Old Testament prophets spoke of the "end of all things" and "the day of the Lord."

The New Testament also speaks clearly of the second coming of Christ. In His discourse to His disciples on the Mount of Olives, recorded in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21, Jesus spoke of His coming at the end of the world. He stressed there will be one final return, one final bodily resurrection of all people, and one final judgment. This "Olivet Discourse" is basic to a study of the last things. The angels told the disciples at Christ's ascension, "This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven," (Acts 1:11).

The epistles frequently mention Christ's second coming. Paul declared, "Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ." (Phil. 3:20). Paul spoke of Christ's second coming to the Thessalonians. He said, "And so we will be with the Lord forever." (1 Thess. 4:17). Paul spoke of receiving a crown of righteousness, which the Lord would give to him and "to all who have longed for His appearing," (2 Tim. 4:8). Peter spoke of Christ's second coming, the destruction of the world, and a new heaven and a new earth, (2 Peter 3:10-13). The book of Revelation throughout speaks of Christ's second coming.

The Lutheran Confessions also speak of our belief in Christ's second coming. Each of the ecumenical creeds confesses our belief that Christ will come again. Article XVII of the Augsburg Confession states the belief that Christ will come again. It also condemns the error of millennialism.

Jesus' first coming took place in quietness and great humility (Luke 2). His second coming will be in great glory so that all can see Him. As Jesus said, "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other," (Matt. 24:30-32). All people, either willingly or unwillingly, will acknowledge Jesus as the Lord of the universe. Those who do not believe in Him will tremble with fear as they behold His second coming. As John beheld it in Revelation, "They called to the mountains and the rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?'" (Rev 6:16-17; cf. also Is. 2:19).

God has determined when the end will come. He is not sitting in heaven, trying to find the optimum time for Christ's second coming. That time has already been set. As Paul said to the people of Athens, "For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the Man He has appointed," (Acts 17:31). God knows that day. Does Jesus? The question is asked because Jesus said, "No one knows about that day or hour, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father," (Mark 13:32) It must be noted that Jesus spoke these words in His state of humiliation. From conception to the grave, Jesus did not fully or constantly make use of the powers His human nature had received from the divine nature. The knowledge of when judgment day would take place was given from Christ's divine nature to His human nature (Col. 2:3; 9). Jesus chose not to make use of this knowledge during His state of humiliation. Since Jesus began His state of exaltation, He has been making full use of the powers His human nature received from the divine nature. Thus Jesus, in His exaltation, does know when judgment day will be.

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

2 December 1 Advent	9 December 2 Advent	16 December 3 Advent
10.00am OAK HC Parish Service	8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC	8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am OAK/GRN Children's Christmas Service at Oakey
Sunday, 2 December		
READINGS: Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 19:28-40		
HYMNS: 2 19 10 163 287 735		
Sunday, 9 December		
READINGS: Malachi 3:1-7b; Philippians 1:2-11; Luke 3:15-20		
HYMNS: 9 13 15 294 (75) 6		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2 December, Parish Advent lunch. Could each family please provide a shared lunch and dessert for Advent? Also, please bring along glue, scissors, sticky tape, etc., for the craft activity.

Children's Christmas Services:

Oakey/Greenwood: Sunday 16 December, 10.00am at Trinity Oakey, followed by a shared lunch.

Aubigny: Saturday 22 December, 7.00pm.

Toowoomba: Sunday, 23 December.

Carols Evening: Sunday, 23 December, 7.30pm at Oakey.