

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

27 January 2019

Bulletin for the 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

HYMNS: 272 217 372 333 (162) 266

INTROIT: The Instruction of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul. The Reminder of the LORD is reliable, making the simple person wise.

The Directions of the LORD are correct, making the heart rejoice. The Commandment of the LORD is pure, giving light to the eyes.

The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever. **The Decisions of the LORD are true and altogether righteous.**

They are more desirable than gold, even much pure gold. Moreover, they are sweeter than honey, than honey from honeycomb.

They also warn your servant. There is great reward in keeping them.

Who understands his errors? Declare me exempt from hidden faults!

Restrain Your servant also from presumptuous sins! Let them not have control over me! Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great rebellion.

May the words from my mouth and the thinking of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my Rock, and my Redeemer!

Psalm 19:7-14

COLLECT: Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; 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: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Ezra reads the Law to the returned exiles.

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a We have been given to drink of that one Spirit.

Luke 4:16-30 "The Spirit of the Lord is on Me."

SERMON: Luke 4:16-30 The Word is most important

¹⁶ Then Jesus went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. On the Sabbath He went into the synagogue, as His custom was, and stood up to read. ¹⁷ He was given the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll, He found the place where Scripture had said: ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on Me because He has anointed Me to tell the Good News to poor people. He has sent Me to announce freedom to prisoners and restoration of sight to blind people, to set free those who have been oppressed, ¹⁹ and to announce the acceptable year of the Lord."

²⁰ He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. ²¹ He began to tell them, "Today, while you are listening, this passage of Scripture has been fulfilled."

²² All spoke well of Him and were astonished at the gracious words that were coming from His mouth. They were asking, "Is This not Joseph's son?"

²³ He told them: "You will surely say this proverb to Me, 'Doctor, heal yourself!' and say, 'Do the same things here in Your hometown as we have heard that You have done at Capernaum!'" ²⁴ He added, "Truly, I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ However, I tell you truly, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months and there was a severe famine all over the land. ²⁶ Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them but to a widow at Zarephath in the territory of Sidon. ²⁷ There were also many lepers in Israel at the time of the prophet Elisha. Yet none of them was made clean, only Naaman the Syrian."

²⁸ All the people in the synagogue were filled with anger when they heard these things. ²⁹ They got up, drove Him out of the city and took Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, to throw Him down the cliff. ³⁰ However, He walked right through them and went on His way.

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.**

PARCHED AND HUNGRY

Everyone knows what it is like to be hungry and thirsty. But many people in the world are always hungry. They are literally starving. Famine is a pervasive threat to millions. How tragic and painful it is when people do not get enough food and fall victim to malnourishment. Although starvation affects all ages, it is especially difficult to watch infants, small children, and the elderly suffer.

Likewise, we have a sense of what it is like to suffer from extreme thirst. Although we never may have experienced it directly, we have seen or read about those who die of dehydration. For those who inhabit inhospitable areas where water is scarce, this resource is infinitely precious. The tragic consequences of running out of water are well known.

Some people have a less immediate hunger and thirst, but one that is no less harmful. Famine and drought are common today, even in areas where there is plenty to eat and drink. People feel a void, an emptiness, an undefined and general dissatisfaction. Although their lives are filled with good, they sense something is lacking. They are hungry and thirsty spiritually. Many are starving and parched, even amid plenty. In their search for satisfaction, people will stuff themselves with a steady diet of spiritual junk food. Sects and cults become popular. There is a demand for spiritual gurus and advisors. Thus, people will gorge themselves on food with no nutritional value and guzzle drink that does not quench thirst. They become overweight from eating, yet die from malnutrition. They drink every last drop, yet will still die from dehydration. They eat spoiled food and drink deadly poison, consuming food and drink that kills.

Many remain hungry and thirsty because they are eating the wrong food and drinking the wrong water. Cut off from God, the true source of life, many can eat only *imitation food* that does not satisfy because it cannot. Living without faith in Christ means a slow, agonising death.

Because of this, how much joy there is when one hears the Beatitude *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled,”* (Matt. 5:6). What good news! What is truly filling, truly satisfying, is the righteousness of Christ. He is the Bread of life. He gives the water of life. He fills us abundantly with a never-ending banquet of fine food and drink. He provides us with a table that overflows with edible, nourishing food. When we partake of Christ through faith, we will not be disappointed. Christ will satisfy us by giving us what we really need: The Bread of God.

The Lord’s Supper, too, is a wonderful gift from Christ. Our Lord nourishes us with His body and blood, which we eat and drink for the forgiveness of our sins. Clearly, our eating and drinking is not only spiritual, but also actual. By faith we eat and drink forgiveness while by our mouths we eat and drink the body and blood of Christ with the bread and the wine. In this precious Meal, our Lord invites us to eat and drink and be satisfied.

In this life, there always will be vestiges of hunger and thirst. Our craving for unhealthy food never will be wholly put away. Yet as we hunger and thirst after righteousness, as we eat and drink and are satisfied with the wholesome bread and water of Christ, we are reminded of that day when we will sit at the banquet table with our Lord in heaven and eat and drink with Him forever.

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

3 February 4 Epiphany	10 February 5 Epiphany	17 February 6 Epiphany
8.30am TMBA HC & AGM 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR	8.30am OAK HC & AGM 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR	8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC
Sunday, 3 February		
READINGS: Jeremiah 1:4-19;	1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13;	Luke 4:31-44
HYMNS: 520 239 401 (839) 822		
Sunday, 10 February		
READINGS: Isaiah 6:1-13;	1 Corinthians 14:12-20;	Luke 5:1-11
HYMNS: 501 336 317 (341 839) 642		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, 6 February, 10.00am. Women’s Guild at Oakey. Opening Devotion: Glenda. Key Word: Jealous. Item of Interest: Something beginning with “J”.

Tuesday, 12 February, 7.30pm. Men’s Fellowship at Oakey.

Saturday, 23 February, 10.00am. CoC/Sem. Comm. meeting at Troys Road. Please forward any agenda items to the secretary, Ian Manz at: igm64@hotmail.com