

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

3 March 2019

Bulletin for the Transfiguration of our Lord

**HYMNS:** 347 37 747 152

**INTROIT:** The LORD reigns. Let the peoples tremble! He is enthroned above the cherubim. Let the earth quake!

The LORD is great in Zion, and He is high above all the peoples.

Let them praise Your great and awesome name! He is holy.

The mighty King loves justice. You have established fairness. You have established justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Exalt the LORD, our God, and worship at **His footstool!** He is holy.

Moses and Aaron were among His priests. Samuel was also among those who called on His name. They called to the LORD, and He answered them.

He spoke to them in a pillar of cloud. They kept His Testimonies and the Ordinance that He had given them.

O LORD, our God, You answered them. You were a God who forgave them, but who took revenge on their wrongdoings.

Exalt the LORD, our God, and worship at His holy mountain! For the LORD, our God, is holy.

Psalm 99

**COLLECT:** O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud, You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**READINGS:** Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Moses' death on Moab

Hebrews 3:1-6 Christ is faithful as a Son over God's household

Luke 9:28-36 Jesus is transfigured on the mountaintop

**SERMON:** Hebrews 3:1-6 Consider Jesus

**Believers can be sure of their salvation**

Can a believer be sure of salvation? The Bible answers in the affirmative. Yes, believers can be sure of their salvation. Believers can be sure for a number of reasons. First of all, God cannot lie. His promise of salvation is the assurance of salvation (Titus 1:2). Second, Jesus secured forgiveness for all people. There is no one he left out. He died for the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus did all that is necessary to gain our forgiveness. There is nothing we need to do or can do to earn salvation. God gives us the righteousness and forgiveness won by Christ as a free gift through faith (John 3:16; Acts 16:31; Matt. 9:2; John 10:28). Faith will be strong when it rests securely on Christ and His promises. Faith becomes weak when it does not lay hold of, or is ignorant of, Christ's promises. Peter's faith grew weak when he saw the wind and the waves on the Sea of Galilee. He gave in to fear, doubting Jesus' promises. His reason told him that people don't walk on water. Thus he began to sink. Jesus rebuked him for his doubt (Matt. 14:31). Had his faith rested firmly on Jesus and His promises, Peter would have continued to walk on the water.

An example of a faith that "walked on water" is the Syrophenician woman. Even though her reason told her that Jesus was sending her away without a hearing, her heart still clung to the love and promises of the Saviour. Her trust was not disappointed. Jesus answered her prayer and commended her faith, (Matt. 15:28).

A lack of good works will reveal that faith has grown weak. Jesus admonished the church in Ephesus

because their “first love” had grown cold (Rev. 2:1-6). A lack of good works indicates a weak faith, but good works do not strengthen faith. Only the Holy Spirit, through the gospel and sacraments, can strengthen faith.

Doubt will weaken faith. Some have said that doubt is a good thing. This, however, is not true. Yes, we are to check what people say by comparing their teaching to the Bible, as did the Bereans on Paul’s second missionary journey (Acts 17:10ff.). However, when God speaks to us in His Word, we are to believe and not to doubt (James 1:5-7). Doubting is telling God that He is not to be trusted. John even says that those who do not believe God in reality call Him a liar (1 John 5:10-12).

The apostle Paul demonstrated the certainty Christians have through faith in Christ Jesus. Awaiting execution in a Roman prison, Paul could say with certainty, “*I am not ashamed. For I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that He is able to guard what has been entrusted to me until that day,*” (2 Tim. 1:12). “*For the future, there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing,*” (2 Tim. 4:8). Paul had written to the Christians at Rome, “*Hope does not disappoint us either, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to us,*” (Rom. 5:5). The Holy Spirit Himself “*testifies with [literally, to] our spirit that we are God’s children,*” (Rom. 8:16). The end result of His testimony is that He produces within us the “deep conviction” of faith (1 Thess. 1:5).

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

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Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at [www.aelc.org.au](http://www.aelc.org.au).

**Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.**

## COMING SERVICES

6 March WEDNESDAY	10 March 1 Lent	13 March WEDNESDAY
7.30pm OAK Vespers	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBALR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC	7.30pm GRN Vespers
<b>Wednesday, 6 March</b>		
HYMNS: 315 317 785 (tune 99) 48 v.3		
<b>Sunday, 10 March</b>		
READINGS: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13		
HYMNS: 852 53 756 (67 65) 791		
<b>Wednesday, 13 March</b>		
HYMNS: 61 298 344 48v.3		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, 6 March, 10.00am. Women’s Guild at Oakey. Opening devotion: Jeannette Ziebell. Key Word: Jerusalem. Item: Something beginning with the letter “K”.

Friday, 9 March, 7.00pm. Youth Group movie night at Troys Road. All high school aged kids are welcome. Please bring your own popcorn and drinks.

Saturday, 16 March, 10.00am. Meeting with representatives from the Marburg Parish. Each congregation – Please elect a representative/s for this meeting.

Please take a Lenten Devotion booklet home with you today.

PARENTS OF CONFIRMATION AGED CHILDREN: Please contact pastor so the next class can be organised. A starting date is yet to be finalised.