

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

21 April 2019
Bulletin for Easter Sunday

HYMNS: 92 88 761 768

INTROIT: Protect me, O God! For I have taken refuge in You.

I have been saying to the LORD: "You are my Lord. Without You I have nothing good."

As for the holy people who are in the land, they are the excellent people, and all my delight is in them.

Those who run after another god will have many sorrows. I shall not pour out their libations of blood or take up their names on my lips.

O LORD, You are my allotted portion and my cup. You are firmly holding what has been allotted to me.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places. Surely, I have a delightful inheritance.

I shall bless the LORD, who has given me advice. Even during the nights my inmost parts teach me.

I have set the LORD before Me constantly. Because He is at My right hand, I shall not stagger.

Therefore My heart is glad, and My glory rejoices. My body also will dwell securely. For You will not abandon My soul to Sheol, or allow Your Faithful One to see decay.

You make known to Me the path of life. In Your presence there is fullness of joy. At Your right hand there are pleasures for ever.

Psalm 16

COLLECT: Almighty God the Father, through Your only Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Isaiah 65:17-25 God promises a new heaven and a new earth.

1 Corinthians 15:19-36 As in Adam all die, the new Adam brings life.

Luke 24:1-12 The empty tomb indicates that the Lord has risen.

SERMON: 2 Timothy 2:8 Remember that Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead

Remember that Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead, and is a descendant of David, according to my Good News!

HE HAS BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD!

The idea put forward by some that Jesus' resurrection is only a spiritual resurrection in the hearts of believers flatly contradicts the Scriptures. The sad fact is that there are many who claim to be Christians who teach just such a phony resurrection. That teaching should strike one as absurd on the face of it: If Christ were still dead, why should believers find any comfort in just pretending that He is alive when they really think Him to be dead? In fact, if He were still dead, what point would there be in believing in Him at all? A dead Christ is no Redeemer. A dead Christ is a fraud. That is exactly St. Paul's point in his great resurrection chapter, 1 Corinthians 15. St. Paul answers the fabrications of present-day teachers of a mere spiritual resurrection of Christ in the hearts of believers completely when he says, "¹⁷ *If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile. You are still in your sins.* ¹⁸ *Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have also perished.* ¹⁹ *If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all other people,*" (1 Corinthians 15:17-19). As surely as Christ was truly dead when His body was placed in the tomb, just so surely He rose again from the dead on Easter Sunday morning. He rose, not allegorically, not metaphorically, but literally and physically.

The doctrine of Christ's physical resurrection from the dead, like the doctrine of the incarnation, is one of the great pillars of the Christian faith. For, if Christ did not literally rise from the dead, then we are not literally redeemed. His resurrection was God's own seal on the work of redemption. It established once and for all that God was satisfied with Christ's sacrifice for us and for our salvation (1 Peter 1:3; 3:21). Had He remained in the tomb we would have no reason at all to trust that He is the Saviour of the world. Yes, had He remained in the tomb, He would not have earned the "*the name that is above every other name,*" (Philippians 2:9).

Moreover, had He remained in the tomb He would have broken His Word. He promised to rise from the dead (Matthew 16:21-26; 20:17-19). He even called Himself "*the Resurrection and the Life,*" (John 11:25). Furthermore, His promises were very exact: He said that He would rise on the third day - and He kept His promise. Buried before sunset on Friday (the first day), His body remained undisturbed all day Saturday (the second day). Then at the close of the first part of Sunday (the third day: according to

the Jewish way of reckoning time, Sunday began at sunset on the previous evening), early in the morning (Mark 16:2), He rose from the dead. In keeping with the promise of Psalm 16:10, His body did not decay. His soul entered the uncorrupted body, and He was again alive. He kept His Word in every detail.

Thus He proved Himself to be the Son of God. For who could promise his own resurrection and then so exactly keep the promise other than God and God's own Son (Romans 1:4)? Since He is the Son of God, since He has kept His Word, since God has shown Himself satisfied with Christ's work of redemption by His resurrection from the dead, every knee should bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

Finally, had Christ not risen from the dead, then the promise that we too will one day rise would likewise be a fiction and a fraud. Jesus promised that He would rise. The expectation of our own resurrection is based on that promise. He promised our resurrection frequently and eloquently, especially in John 14: "I shall also come again and take you to be with Me, so that you also may be where I am," and "Because I live, you also will live," (John 14:3, 19). St Paul rejoiced in Christ's resurrection because it held the guarantee of our resurrection: "²⁰ However, now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.... For, as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ However, each one in his own turn: Christ is the firstfruits. After that, when He comes, those who belong to Christ," (1 Cor. 15:20-23).

It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. It proves that His sacrifice for us was accepted. It proves that He is God. It proves that we too will rise, just as He promised. A rejection of the doctrine of Christ's resurrection is a rejection of the whole point of His coming and the whole goal of the Christian faith. It is just as St. Paul said, "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is useless and your faith is also useless," (1 Corinthians 15:14). Yes, if Christ did not rise and if we do not rise, then the devil has won. That such will not happen God promised already in Genesis 3:15. The devil is crushed! Death is defeated! He is risen, is risen indeed! So too will we rise, just as He has promised.

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

28 April 2 nd Sunday of Easter	5 May 3 rd Sunday of Easter	12 May 4 th Sunday of Easter
		Good Shepherd Sunday
8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR	8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC
Sunday, 28 April		
READINGS: Acts 5:12-32; Revelation 1:4-18; John 20:19-31		
HYMNS: 90 100 767 643		
Sunday, 5 May		
READINGS: Acts 9:1-22; Revelation 5:1-14; John 21:1-19		
HYMNS: 95 101 386 436		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tomorrow, 22 April, 10.00am. Parish Picnic at Aubigny. Could each family please provide something for a shared lunch? Children, remember to bring your colouring-in picture with you to enter the colouring-in competition.

Pastor will be on holidays from 22 April - 6 May. Please contact Pastor Ohlson for any emergencies during this time: 0409169991