

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

26 May 2019

Bulletin for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

HYMNS: 97 322 420 311 283 221

INTROIT: May God be gracious to us and bless us! May He make His face shine on us that Your way may be known on the earth, and **Your salvation among all nations!**

Let the peoples praise You, O God! Let all the peoples praise You!

Let the nations be glad and shout for joy! For You will judge the peoples justly, and You will lead the nations on the earth.

Let the peoples praise You, O God! Let all the peoples praise You!

The earth has produced its yield. God, our God, will bless us.

God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear Him.

Psalm 67

COLLECT: O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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: Acts 16:9-15 Paul travels to Macedonia and meets Lydia

Revelation 21:9-14, 21-27 The glory of the New Jerusalem

John 16:23-33 I am leaving the world and going back to the Father

SERMON: John 16:23-33 Ask the Father, He will give it to you!

²³ In that day you will not ask Me any questions. Truly, truly, I tell you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. ²⁴ Until now you have not asked for anything in My name. Ask and you will receive, that your joy may be complete! ²⁵ I have been telling you these things in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I shall no longer speak to you in figures of speech but shall report to you plainly about the Father. ²⁶ In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall ask the Father on your behalf. ²⁷ For the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and because you have believed that I have come forth from God. ²⁸ I have come forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I am leaving the world and am going to the Father."

²⁹ His disciples said, "Look! Now You are speaking plainly and are not speaking any dark saying. ³⁰ Now we know that You know all things and do not need to have anyone ask You questions. By this we believe that You have come forth from God."

³¹ Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? ³² Look! The hour is coming and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and you will leave Me alone. Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. ³³ I have spoken these things to you that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have distress. Nevertheless, have courage! I have overcome the world."

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.**

Powerful Prayers

The Bible gives us several examples of how people prayed and the different things they prayed for. The best example of prayer we have is the prayer that Jesus taught us. In the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:5-13; Luke 11:2-4), Jesus taught us that we can pray for ourselves and for our neighbours' needs. We can even pray for our enemies. We should also give praise and thanksgiving to God for who He is and what He has done for us.

Another example of Jesus praying is found in John 17, called Jesus' "High Priestly Prayer," in which He prays for Himself and us before His Passion.

Abraham prayed an intercessory prayer for Sodom, pleading with God not to destroy the city (Genesis 18:22-33). Stephen prayed for his enemies to be forgiven as they were stoning him to death (Acts 7:59-60), just as Jesus prayed for those who had crucified Him (Luke 23:34).

Hannah poured out her heart as she prayed for a son (1 Samuel 1:10-12), then praised God when her prayer was answered (2:1-10). Mary sang a prayer of praise when she learned that she would be the mother of the promised Messiah (Luke 1:46-55).

Solomon prayed for wisdom in his service as Israel’s king (2 Chronicles 1:8- 12). Daniel prayed to the one God while serving King Darius during the Babylonian exile - even when an order from the king forbade such prayers - risking death in the lions’ den (Daniel 6). Later, when, Daniel came to understand the reason for the exile of his people in Babylon and that the time of exile was nearly completed, he prayed a prayer of confession, asking for mercy (Daniel 9).

Jonah prayed from the belly of the fish (Jonah 2:1-9); Elijah prayed from Mount Carmel that God’s power may be shown to Israel and against the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:20-39).

Some prayed silently; others spoke out loud or sang. From these great examples of praying people, we learn that we can pray anywhere and at any time.

We should also be aware that each of these people of God was a sinful person. God answered their prayers not because of their perfect faith or actions, but because of His great love and compassion. In the same way, it is because of Jesus and the faith God has given us in Him, not our good works or right words, that God listens to and answers our prayers. When we don’t know what to pray for or how to pray, the Holy Spirit helps us pray by praying with us and for us.

Abraham, Hannah, Stephen, Mary, and many others prayed with confidence and boldness because of the relationship they had with their heavenly Father.

We, too, can bring our requests, or petitions, to God with confidence that He will hear us, for Jesus’ sake.

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

Thursday 30 May Ascension Day	2 June 7 th Sunday of Easter	9 June Pentecost
7.30pm AUB HC	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
THURSDAY, 30 May		
READINGS: Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53		
HYMNS: 106 771 115 323 335 113		
Sunday, 2 June		
READINGS: Acts 1:12-26; Revelation 22:1-20; John 17:20-26		
HYMNS: 147 239 4 (291 292) 187		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thursday, 30 May. After our Ascension Day service, a quick meeting will be held to adopt the audited parish report.

The Youth Group went for a bike ride on 18/5/19. This was accompanied by a lesson in how God doesn’t promise you an easy life and that trouble will find you. The next Youth Group will be on the 15/6/19 and will be either parlour games or a bonfire, depending on the weather.