

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

16 June 2019
Bulletin for Trinity Sunday

HYMNS: 135 139 140 521

INTROIT: O LORD, our Lord, how splendid is Your name in all the earth! O set Your glory above the heavens!
Out of the mouths of children and nursing infants You have established strength, because of **Your enemies,** that You may silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at Your heavens, which Your fingers have made, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place,
what is man, that You should be mindful of him, and the son of man, that You should be concerned about him?

You have made Him lower than the angels for a little while, and You have crowned Him with glory and honour.

You have made him master over the works that Your hands have made. You have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and even wild animals, the birds of the sky, and the fish of the sea, which pass through the paths of the seas.

O LORD, our Lord, how splendid is Your name in all the earth!

Psalm 8

COLLECT: Almighty and everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 "I was appointed... before the world began."

Acts 2:14a, 22-36 God made Jesus both Lord and Christ

John 8:48-59 "Before Abraham was, I am."

SERMON: Matthew 25:31-46 Judgment dependent on works?

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in His glory and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His glorious throne. ³² All nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them from one another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will have the sheep stand at His right but the goats at His left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those at His right, 'Come, you whom My Father has blessed! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the time when the world was created! ³⁵ For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave Me a drink. I was a stranger, and you took Me into your homes; ³⁶ naked, and you gave Me something to wear; sick, and you looked after Me; in prison, and you visited Me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous ones will ask Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You a drink?' ³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and take You into our homes, or naked and give You something to wear?' ³⁹ When did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?"

⁴⁰ "Then the King will answer them, 'Truly, I tell you, anything you have done for one of My brothers here, even the least important of them, you have done for Me.'

⁴¹ "Then He will say to those at His left, 'Go away from Me, you cursed ones, into the everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels! ⁴² For I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; thirsty, and you did not give Me a drink; ⁴³ a stranger, and you did not take Me into your homes; naked, and you did not give Me anything to wear; sick and in prison, and you did not look after Me.'

⁴⁴ "Then they also will ask, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not help You?'

⁴⁵ "Then He will answer them, 'Truly, I tell you, anything you have not done for one of these, even the least important of them, you have not done for Me.'

⁴⁶ "Then these will go away to everlasting punishment, but the righteous ones to everlasting life."

Athanasian Creed: Trinity, Good Works, and Salvation

Christianity has constantly struggled to keep the faith free from false philosophies.

In the fourth-century Greek culture of Alexandria, Egypt, a persuasive preacher with a logical mind used a philosophy foreign to the Scriptures in order to explain the connection between Jesus and His Father. Arius borrowed from the popular Greek concept that a "god," by nature, had to be high, distant and almighty; and that humans, consequently, had to be low, spacial and inferior.

Arius taught that only the Father was really a proper God. Because Jesus was human, He was therefore only a creature (created by God) and therefore did not really possess any divine qualities. The problem was basic: When Arius denied the divinity of Christ, he destroyed God's role in accomplishing our salvation. If Jesus were not really God, then He could not possibly have saved us from our sins.

Orthodox (“right-teaching”) Christianity declared the Scriptural teaching of the two natures in Christ - that He was both “true God,” and “true man.” The Athanasian Creed proclaims over and over that Jesus is “equal with the Father.” Affirming Jesus’ divinity, this creed confesses that God was the originator of our salvation - He did it for us.

Affirming His humanity, it confesses that Jesus died for every part of us - He was a Saviour who was completely human. Excerpts from this creed, named for Saint Athanasius, show how the Church has traditionally expressed the Biblical doctrine of the Trinity.

“This is the true Christian faith, that we worship one God in three persons and three persons in one God without confusing the persons or dividing the divine substance. For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is still another, but there is one Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, equal in glory and coequal in majesty. What the Father is, that is the Son and that is the Holy Spirit.”

Still, while there is one God, the Persons of the Trinity are not to be confused: *“The Father was neither made nor created nor begotten by anybody. The Son was not made or created, but was begotten by the Father. The Holy Spirit was not made or created or begotten, but proceeds from the Father and the Son.”*

The Athanasian Creed goes on to clearly confess the divine and human natures of Christ, concluding by saying of Him, *“At His coming all men will rise with their bodies and give an account of their own deeds. Those who have done good will enter eternal life, and those who have done evil will go into everlasting fire. This is the true Christian faith. Unless a man believe this firmly and faithfully, he cannot be saved.”* This mention of works and salvation often bothers those who understand from Scriptures such as Ephesians 2 that we are saved by grace, not by works. This passage from the Athanasian Creed echoes Christ’s Judgment Day prophecies in Matthew, especially 25:31-46.

The key to understanding is that it is not the works themselves that save. Rather, works testify to saving faith; that is, they indicate that the deeds that are called “good” by God are done only by Christians who believe in Jesus Christ as their crucified and risen Saviour and who trust in Him alone. Returning to Ephesians 2, we note that after the explicit and total foundation of salvation by grace alone, Paul also states that ours is not an idle salvation, but one dedicated to the service of the One who saved us: *“For He has made us what we are, creating us in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared in advance, in order that we may live in them,”* (Eph. 2:10). Many who think that they have done good will be horribly dismayed on the Last Day (Matthew 25:44-46).

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

23 June 2 Pentecost	30 June 3 Pentecost	7 July 4 Pentecost
8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC	10.00am AUB HC Parish Service (Please note the time)	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC 9.00am Marburg LR
Sunday, 23 June		
READINGS: Isaiah 65:1-9;	Galatians 3:23-4:7;	Luke 8:26-39
HYMNS: 498 156 241 (848 375) 446 v.1 (tune 328)		
Sunday, 30 June		
READINGS: 1 Kings 19:9b-21;	Galatians 5:1, 13-25;	Luke 9:51-62
HYMNS: 501 336 361 848 285 440		

ANNOUNCEMENTS