

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

15 September 2019

Bulletin for the 14th Sunday after Pentecost

HYMNS: 391 317 418 320 291 604

INTROIT: Let my cry for help come near into Your presence, O LORD! Make me perceptive according to Your Word!

Let my plea for favour come before You! Rescue me according to Your Promise!

Let my lips pour out praise! For You teach me Your Prescriptions.

Let my tongue sing about Your Promise! For all Your Commandments are righteous.

Let Your hand become my help! For I have chosen Your Directions.

I have been longing for Your salvation, O LORD, and Your Instruction is my delight.

May my soul live, that it may praise You! May Your Decisions help me!

I have gone astray like a lost sheep. Search for Your servant! For I do not forget Your Commandments.

Psalm 119:169-176

COLLECT: Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us, that we may not be lost for ever, but follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Ezekiel 34:11-24 Prophecy against the shepherds of Israel.

1 Timothy 1:5-17 Warning against false teachers.

Luke 15:1-10 The parable of the lost sheep.

SERMON: Luke 15:1-10 The true joy of salvation

¹ All the tax-collectors and other sinners were coming to Jesus to hear Him. ² However, the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled and said, "This Man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ He told them this parable: ⁴ "Which man among you who has a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the other ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the lost one until he finds it? ⁵ When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and is glad. ⁶ He goes home, calls his friends and neighbours together and tells them, 'Be happy with me! For I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who do not need to repent.

⁸ "Or which woman who has ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house and look for it carefully until she finds it? ⁹ When she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbours together and says, 'Be happy with me! For I have found the coin that I lost.' ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

The Objects of God's Providence

God's creation is vast. Consider the number of stars. There are multitudes of them. Are the heavens too vast to come under the providence of God? Psalm 147:4 says, "He counts out the number of stars. He gives all of them their names." Are the oceans too vast or too deep to come under God's governance? The Lord answers, "You may come as far as this but no farther, and here your proud waves will meet opposition" (Job 38:11). Jesus displayed the governance of God when He stilled the storm on the sea of Galilee. His disciples marveled, "Who is this, then, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?" (Mark 4:41).

Are the rain, hail, and snow too vast to come under the governance of God? The Lord said, "Does the rain have a father? Or who has caused the birth of dewdrops? ²⁹ From whose womb has the ice come forth, and who has given birth to the frost from the sky? ³⁰ The water becomes hard like stone, and the surface of the deep freezes over" (Job 38:28-30). The answer is, of course, God controls all things. How much of creation is under God's providence? The writer to the Hebrews tells, "(Christ sustains) ALL THINGS by His powerful Word" (Hebrews 1:3). All creation is

under the providence of God.

Does this mean, then, that God is so busy with the vast universe that He doesn't have time to take care of the little details of His creation? Jesus answered this question for us when He said, "Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father" (Matt. 10:29). Nothing in all of creation escapes the providence of God. Even the smallest of God's creatures live under the care of our Father in heaven. The church general is promised God's providential care. Jesus promises that not even the devil and all his hosts can destroy His church (Matt. 16:18). Individual believers are assured of God's care. Paul wrote, "We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, for those whom He has called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

All of creation in general, the church in particular, and a believer in specific are all under the providence of God. This is a great comfort! To use a cliché, I may think that I am merely one frog in a big worldwide pond, one drop in an ocean of people, or one grain of sand on the seashore of humanity. Yet God will not overlook me. He knows all about me; He knows what I need. As Jesus once said, "As for you, even the hairs on your head have all been numbered" (Matthew 10:30). Most important, He loves me and has sent Jesus to die for me. Therefore, I am assured that He will govern and direct my life so that one day I will enter heaven.

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

22 September 15 Pentecost	29 September 16 Pentecost	6 October 17 Pentecost
8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC 9.00am MINDEN LR	10.00am HC Greenwood AELC Service	8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD HC Harvest Thanksgiving
Sunday, 22 September		
READINGS: Amos 8:4-7;	1 Timothy 2:1-15;	Luke 16:1-15
HYMNS: 19 372 374 (323 325) 454		
Sunday, 29 September		
READINGS: Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3; Revelation 12:7-12;		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please take home with you today a copy of the updated AELC Statement of Faith.

DOWNS PARISH

SEPTEMBER BIBLE STUDIES:

20 September, Greenwood.

27 September, Aub/Oakey.

MARBURG PARISH

Thursday, 26 September, 10.00am. Bible Study at Lowood. We shall be studying the 3rd chapter of James. Please bring something for a shared morning tea.