

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

29 September 2019

Bulletin for the 16th Sunday after Pentecost

HYMNS: 431 385 456 315 287 643

INTROIT: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

Let me praise the LORD throughout my life! Let me sing praise to my God as long as I live!

Do not trust in noble people, in a descendant of Adam, who cannot save!

When his spirit departs, he will return to his earth. On that day his plans will perish.

Blessed is the one who has the God of Jacob for his help! His hope is in the LORD, his God, who has made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who remains faithful for ever, who provides justice for those who are oppressed, and who gives food to those who are hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free.

The LORD opens the eyes of blind people. The LORD raises up those who are bowed down. The LORD loves righteous people.

The LORD watches over resident-foreigners. He helps up the orphan and the widow. However, He makes the way of wicked people crooked.

The LORD will reign for ever, Your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

Psalm 146

COLLECT: O God, You are the strength of all who trust in You, and without Your aid we can do no good thing. Grant us the help of Your grace that we may please You in both will and deed; 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: Amos 6:1-7 Woe to the complacent.

1 Timothy 3:1-13 Overseer and deacons.

Luke 16:19-31 Remember, you had your good things in your life.

SERMON: Luke 16:19-31 Salvation comes from God's Word alone

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.**

Woe to the Complacent!

Uzziah king of Judah in Jerusalem and Jeroboam II king of Israel in Samaria, together with the other leaders of their lands, must be feeling quite pleased with themselves as they survey their kingdoms from their fortresses on Mount Zion and on the mountain of Samaria. No foreign enemies threaten Israel or Judah on any side. The kings and their courts sit secure in their well-fortified capitals, holding audience for the people who come to Jerusalem and Samaria seeking justice or favours.

The Lord shatters their self-satisfaction with a word of woe spoken through His prophet Amos. He suggests that the great men of Jerusalem and Samaria consider some cities that have met defeat or destruction, "*Go across to Calneh and look! Go from there to the great Hamath! Then go down to Gath in Philistia!*" (Amos 6:2). Calneh, not certainly known to us today but probably a place in Syria and not the Mesopotamian city mentioned in Genesis chapter 10; once-mighty Hamath, which lost its southern territories to Jeroboam II (2 Kings 14:28); and Gath, the Philistine city whose walls Uzziah broke down (2 Chronicles 26:6). What happened to those once great cities could happen to Samaria or Jerusalem as well.

Satan knows how to distract human beings from contemplating unpleasant topics such as sin and the coming judgment. Amos describes the high luxury in which the Israelite leaders are living. The wealth gained through military victories and profitable commerce has purchased comforts for their homes. The average Israelite house had little furniture. At night people slept on the floor or on an earthen shelf, wrapped in their cloaks. Now the nation's wealthy are sleeping on ivory beds, while by day they sprawl on their couches. In the average ancient Israelite diet, meat was reserved for special celebrations. Now the wealthy are feasting regularly on choice cuts of lamb and veal. Their days and nights are occupied with parties and entertainment, times to strum stringed instruments, drink large quantities of wine, and perfume one's body with choice ointments. No pleasure seems to be lacking.

What is missing, says the prophet, is spiritual concern on the part of the people's leaders. The kingdom that seems so fortunate is

actually ruined, because it has decayed from within. This society that thinks it is enjoying health and prosperity is actually sick unto death. Yet the kings and their leading citizens distract themselves with pleasures and entertainment. They refuse to grieve for the fact that “Joseph” - the Northern Kingdom that includes the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, Joseph’s sons - is morally rotten and ruined. Very well, Amos says: let the notable men of Israel lead their people - into captivity. Let Israel’s feasting and lounging be replaced by the bitter experience of exile far from the Promised Land.

It is not difficult for us in prosperous times to look around and see an all-consuming concern for pleasure in the citizens of our country. We need to remember that Amos is speaking to God’s chosen people Israel, and that today His words apply particularly to Christians. We who call ourselves disciples of Jesus in this land also enjoy the prosperity of our times. We buy comfortable furniture, eat and drink at expensive restaurants, and listen to beautiful music on fine stereo systems.

We say that our wealth is a gift of God. But is it also true that we do not grieve over the ruin of His church? Are we unconcerned whether our pastors are teaching what the Bible teaches, as long as our congregation has an impressive physical plant? Do we take no measures to protect even our own families against the moral laxity that rules the world? Do we wrap ourselves so tightly in a soft cocoon of luxury that we live unaware of people suffering for lack of food, clothing, and a roof over their heads? Do we spend so generously on ourselves that little is left to give for preaching the Good News among those who have not heard it? Then Jesus reproves our unbelief and warns us with the words He said to the unbelieving elders of the Jews: “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and will be given to a nation that continues to produce its fruit” (Matthew 21:43).

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

6 October 17 Pentecost	13 October 18 Pentecost	20 October 19 Pentecost
8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD HC Harvest Thanksgiving	8.00am TMBA Bible Study and 9.00am HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC 9.00am MINDEN LR	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC 9.00am MINDEN LR
Sunday, 6 October		
READINGS: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:1-10 LOWOOD: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 12:13-21		
HYMNS: 501 4 363 (tune 437) 457 LOWOOD: 560 437 563 327 290 642		
Sunday, 13 October		
READINGS: Ruth 1:1-19a; 2 Timothy 2:1-13; Luke 17:11-19		
HYMNS: 520 241 71 (74 842) 16		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DOWNS PARISH

Wednesday, 2 October, 10.00am. Women’s Guild at Oakey. Opening Devotion: *Alice*. Key Word: *King*. Item of Interest: *Something beginning with “R”*

Saturday, 5 October, 12.30pm. The youth will meet at Pastor’s house and then go to Picnic Point for a bush walk and afternoon tea picnic.

MARBURG PARISH

Sunday, 6 October. Bible Study will be held after the divine service.