

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

26 July 2020

Bulletin for the 8th Sunday after Pentecost
(Praise and Thanksgiving Service)

HYMNS: 437 887 441 362 840 285 468

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 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: Almighty God, Your mercies are new every morning and You graciously provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your goodness, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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.**

READINGS: Deuteronomy 8:1-10 You shall keep the Commandments
of the LORD

Philippians 4:6-20 Do not worry about anything but take all your
requests to the Lord in prayer

Luke 17:11-19 Jesus heals the ten lepers

SERMON: Luke 17:11-19 Worship in the Name of Jesus

Some Examples of Thanksgiving in the New Testament

There are over sixty references to the giving of thanks in the New Testament. Christ, Paul, John, Luke and the author of Hebrews are portrayed as giving thanks.

Christ thanked His heavenly Father for answering His prayers. In the performance of the two miracles of multiplication of bread and fishes, the feeding of the 5,000 and the 4,000 respectively, Jesus is depicted as thanking God for the food before giving orders for its distribution (John 6:11; Matthew 16:36). When Jesus stood before the tomb of Lazarus, He said: "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me..." (John 11:42). We heard today of the healing miracle of Christ in regard to ten lepers, and Jesus was disappointed that only one man returned to give thanks to our Lord for His gift of new life (Luke 17:18). In connection with the institution of the Lord's Supper, Jesus took bread and wine and thanked His Heavenly Father for them before giving them to His disciples (Luke 22:14-20).

Paul on Thanksgiving

A study of the passages in most of the epistles of Paul is very instructive in showing us to Whom thanks should be rendered.

Who Is to Be Thanked?

The true God is the object of all of Paul's thanksgivings. The God to whom Paul addresses his thanksgivings is the Father and is associated with Jesus Christ.

In writing to the Roman congregation, Paul declared: "*First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you...*" (1:8) In communicating with Timothy, his spiritual son, Paul said: "*I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has made me strong. For He has considered me to be trustworthy and has appointed me into the ministry,*¹³ *although I used to be a blasphemer, a persecutor and a violent man. However, I have received mercy, because I acted ignorantly in unbelief.*¹⁴ *The grace of our Lord has also been exceedingly abundant, along with faith and love that are in Christ Jesus*" (1 Timothy 1:12-14). Only those who acknowledge Christ as Saviour and Redeemer, can pray to the Father of our Lord Jesus.

For Whom Should Thanksgiving Be Made?

Prominent in Paul's letters are statements thanking God for the churches he had founded or had been organised by others. In expressing gratitude to God through Jesus Christ, the apostle especially was grateful to God for the spiritual blessings bestowed

upon them. In some cases he thanked the Giver of all good things for their election, in others he expressed gratitude for their faith in Christ, in yet others for his convert's missionary zeal. The following passages in the Pauline epistles demonstrate these points: Roman 1:8; 1 Corinthians 1:4; Philippians 1:1, 3-4; Ephesians 1:16; Colossians 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:3.

Not only entire congregations are the subject of Paul's thanksgivings but individuals such as Philemon (v. 3-4) or Timothy (2 Tim. 1:3). Paul was grateful to God for the help and support that Aquila and Priscilla had given to him and other Christians (Romans 16:4). Paul likewise thanked God for Titus for the care he had given to the Corinthians (2 Cor. 8:16). Paul thanked God for himself. The things for which gratitude are expressed are grace bestowed upon him that although he had once been a persecutor of Christ's followers, the Lord had forgiven him and called him to proclaim the good news to both Jews and Gentiles (1 Timothy 1:12-14).

For What Paul Thanked God Through Jesus

Paul was thankful for spiritual and earthly blessings, but the greatest of all spiritual gifts was that God had sent His only Son into the world. Just as Paul wanted to proclaim no one other than Christ crucified, so Paul held the gift of God's Son as unfathomable, so that he cried out: "*Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!*" (2 Cor. 9:15).

Prominent in the list of blessings God had bestowed on Paul were those that spoke of a spiritual nature. Thus he was grateful for being freed from the bondage of the Law (Romans 8:25). He thanked God for the victory over the fear of the Law and the sting of death (1 Cor. 15:55). Paul thanked God who, as he declared, "*always leads us in a triumphal procession in Christ and through us makes the fragrant knowledge of Him known in every place*" (2 Cor. 2:14).

Another cause for thanksgiving was the liberality of the Corinthians for the suffering brethren in Judea, (2 Cor. 9:11-12). On his trip to Rome by ship which was shipwrecked in the Mediterranean, Luke reports in his church history book Acts, that Paul encouraged the people who had not partaken of food for fourteen days to eat: He took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all, and when he had broken it he began to eat (Acts 27:35).

In his instructions to Timothy Paul told him to teach people to pray for all men and for those in authority, "*that we may live a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and reverence*" (1 Tim. 2:1-3). In the concluding verses of 1 Thessalonians Paul gives a number of final counsels and says: "*Pray without ceasing! Give thanks in everything!*" (5:17-18).

For us, we too, must in all matters, give thanks to God. not only does He continue to take care of our bodies, but also our souls. He has redeemed and saved us from our sins, and eternal life now waits all who put their faith and trust in Him. To Him be all glory!

Welcome to all with us today!

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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

2 August 9 Pentecost	9 August 10 Pentecost	16 August 11 Pentecost
8.00am Bible Study & 9.00am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.30am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC 9.00am MINDEN LR	8.30am TMBA LR 8.30am OAK LR 9.30am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am MARBURG HC Harvest Thanksgiving & Bible Study
Sunday, 2 August		
READINGS: Isaiah 55:1-5;	Romans 9:1-13;	Matthew 14:13-21
HYMNS: 305 386 334 (284 294) 391		
Sunday, 9 August		
READINGS: Job 38:4-18;	Romans 10:5-17;	Matthew 14:22-33
HYMNS: 272 404 609 (150 291) 410		

ANNOUNCEMENTS