

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

16 August 2020

Bulletin for the 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**HYMNS:** 151 401 443 643

**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 and everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; 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:** Isaiah 56:1,6-8 Salvation for the Gentiles.

Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 29-32 God's mercy to all.

Matthew 15:21-28 The faith of a Canaanite woman.

**SERMON:** Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 29-32 The Lord's mysterious work of saving

## **Saving Faith rests on Jesus Christ Alone**

In his Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), Jesus used an illustration of a wise and a foolish builder (7:24-27). The foolish person built his house on sand. The wise person built his house on the rock. The Bible makes it clear that Jesus is the Rock, the foundation, on which saving faith is built. Paul wrote, “For no one can lay any other foundation than the one that has already been laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 3:11). Faith that rests on Jesus will endure. When Peter confessed of Jesus, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God,” Jesus replied, “on this rock I shall build My church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it” (Matthew 16:16, 18). Jesus, not Peter, is the rock on which the church is built. This is why the devil with all his hosts will never prevail against the church.

Saving faith rests on Jesus Christ alone. He is the only way to salvation (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). Saving faith cannot rest on human works or effort. Good works will not get anyone to heaven. We simply cannot keep the law as God demands. God demands that we keep His will perfectly, in thought, word, and deed (Matthew 5:48; Galatians 3:10). One step less than perfection damns a person (James 2:10). If a person committed just one sin a day, in the course of one year that would amount to 365 sins. If we lived to be 70, that would amount to more than 25,550 sins. One sin is enough to condemn us. The Bible tells us clearly that we have all missed the mark of the perfection which God demands (Romans 3:23).

When an expert in the Law asked Jesus “what should I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus replied, “What do the Scriptures say in the Law?” (Luke 10:25-26). The expert in the Law responded by quoting the summary of the two tables of the Law given in the Old Testament: “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind” [Deut. 6:5] and, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself [Lev. 19:18]” (Lk 10:27). Jesus then said, “Continue to do this and you will live!” (Luke 10:28). The problem is, we simply cannot keep God’s Law as He demands. Good works do not save us (Romans 3:28). Christ alone saves.

There are other false foundations for faith as well. Some people base their faith on “I think” or “This is what seems reasonable to me” instead of on “This is what God has to say in the Bible.” Reason cannot serve as a foundation for faith. Since the fall into sin, human reason is corrupt. When it comes to matters pertaining to the question “How may I be saved?” reason will always come up with the wrong answer.

Human reason knows only one answer with regard to the question “How may I be saved?” It is “Do the best you can and hope that God accepts you.” However, as Solomon observed, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death” (Proverbs 14:12). Jesus is the only way to heaven. Faith rests solely on Jesus.

Human emotions are another false foundation for faith. “How I feel about God” is no foundation for faith. Emotions are fickle. Today they are high; tomorrow they may be low. Today we may feel close to God; tomorrow we may feel far from God. Emotions are fallible. Some of the people who felt the closest to God, like the Pharisees, were outside of His kingdom. Some who felt far from God, like the tax collector, were actually in His kingdom (Luke 18:9-14). It is not how I feel about God that gives me assurance of salvation. It is how God feels about me that gives me assurance of salvation. Those who rely on how they feel about God to give them assurance of salvation rely on shifting sand. We dare not have “faith in our faith.” Faith rests securely when it rests on Christ alone.

### **A Prayer for Police and people in Law Enforcement**

*“Our Father, thank You for the men and women who serve as police officers and in law enforcement. Pour out your grace, mercy, and peace upon those men and women who serve in this role in our communities, our cities, our states, and our nation as well as throughout the world.*

*Give them wisdom, discernment, patience, and grace as they work with people, many of whom can so often be difficult to deal with.*

*Keep them safe from danger, evil, and harm. Give them supernatural grace, wisdom, and insight to do their job with excellence, understanding, and efficiency. And give them supernatural protection daily wherever they go. Thank you, Lord, for all of these public servants. In Jesus’s name, Amen.”*

“If My people, who have been called by My name, humble themselves, pray, try to see My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I Myself shall hear from heaven, shall forgive their sin and heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

We must continue to pray for our nation. We must continue to pray for our leaders, and we must continue to pray for God to pour out His healing grace upon the church and our nation – as well as the world.

Individuals, families, communities, and our nation as a whole need to see so many things differently. We desperately need to see things from Christ’s point of view. All other perspectives are wrong.

Jesus really is the answer for our nation and the whole world. Please pray.

Welcome to all with us today!

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Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at [www.aelc.org.au](http://www.aelc.org.au)

**Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.**

## COMING SERVICES

23 August 12 Pentecost	30 August 13 Pentecost	6 September 14 Pentecost
8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.30am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC 9.00am MINDEN LR	8.30am TMBA LR  10.00am MARBURG HC AELC service and Sunday School Picnic	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR
<b>Sunday, 23 August</b>		
READINGS: Isaiah 51:1-6;	Romans 11:33-12:8;	Matthew 16:13-20
HYMNS: 457 188 377 (148 83) 217		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Downs Parish: Tonight we shall hold our Parish AGM in Oakey at 7.30pm. Please take home with you today a copy of pastors report and the financial report.

On Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup> of August, we shall be holding an AELC Sunday School picnic. We are allowed by the government to hold outdoor activities, and can share food – but must be sensible, ie., use serving tongs instead of fingers etc. If any parents or Sunday school teachers on the Downs can help with the children’s activities, please talk to pastor asap.

I have received news that the next copy of the *Good News* magazine is on its way and should arrive within the next couple weeks. I have also ordered the next book to be read in our Book club.

### Bible Studies:

Sunday, 16 August, after service at Marburg.

Thursday, 20 August, 10.00am at Lowood.

Friday, 21 August, 7.30pm at Greenwood.

Friday, 28 August, 7.30pm Aub/Oak at OAKEY.