

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

27 September 2020

Bulletin for the 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**HYMNS:** 36 197 405 346

**INTROIT:** I am lifting up my soul to You, O LORD.

O my God, I trust in You. Let me not be put to shame! Let my enemies not gloat over me!

Certainly, no one who waits in hope for You will be put to shame. Those who act treacherously without any reason will be put to shame.

Make Your Ways known to me, O LORD! Teach me Your paths!

Lead me in Your truth and teach me! For You are the God who saves me. I wait in hope for You all day long.

Remember, O LORD, Your compassionate and merciful deeds! For they have existed from eternity.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my rebellious acts! According to Your mercy remember me, because of Your goodness, O LORD!

The LORD is good and upright. Therefore, He teaches sinners in the Way.

He leads humble people in what is right and teaches humble people His Way.

All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth for those who keep His Covenant and His Testimonies.

Psalm 25:1-10

**COLLECT:** Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honour and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**READINGS:** Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 A false proverb refuted; and the admonition to turn and live.

Philippians 2:1-18 Living in harmony; and the assurance that God works both our willing and our doing.

Matthew 21:23-32 Jesus' authority is questioned; and the parable about the two sons.

**SERMON:** Matthew 21:23-32 Doing what the Father wants

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**Life – Discovered on Venus! (Well, only if you read CNN's Headlines)**

*Ken Ham, Answers in Genesis*

News headlines (like those on CNN) around the world recently loudly proclaimed that signatures of life had been discovered on the hot, gaseous planet second from the sun, Venus. But do these headlines accurately represent the study (a question we always need to ask when we see a headline!)? Have hints of life really been discovered on Venus?

Well... no and no. As one famous person would say: "fake news." The attention-grabbing headlines don't accurately convey what the study discovered, and no: hints of life have not been found on Venus. What scientists detected in the atmosphere of Venus was trace amounts of the gas phosphine, which on earth is suggestive of biological processes (bacteria living in anaerobic conditions) and therefore life - here. But on Venus, the possibility of life, particularly aerial life in Venusian clouds, "is not likely." Still, since the scientists weren't able to determine how the phosphine got there, they conclude, "Our hoped-for impact in the planetary science community is to stimulate more research on Venus itself, research on the possibilities of life in Venus' atmosphere, and even space missions focused to find signs of life or even life itself in the Venusian atmosphere."

Our astronomer, Dr. Danny Faulkner, explains, "*Phosphine can have a biogenic origin. Typically, that biogenic origin is anaerobic, much like methane is generated in anaerobic decomposition. However, like methane, phosphine can have an abiogenic origin, too. For instance, methane is common in comets and the outer planets, but no one seriously suggests that this methane had a biogenic origin. Furthermore, a decade ago, phosphine was detected in the atmospheres of Jupiter and Saturn, but no one claims it was biogenic.*"

Apparently, the people involved in this discovery think they have eliminated all abiogenic pathways that could produce phosphine on Venus. I suspect that they haven't considered all possibilities.

Really, these headlines implying evidence for life has been found on Venus are the typical fake news headlines that CNN and others often put out. If you read the actual article, you find that these headlines are simply not true at all. But they probably help scientists who are hoping for more research grants!

Secularists are desperately searching for life elsewhere in the universe, as they think this will prove that the God of the Bible doesn't exist and that His Word is not true. So when a scientist suggests that possibly, maybe, perhaps, they don't know for sure, there's a slight possibility, but it may not be evidence for life on another planet, the headline is constructed by the news media to deliberately mislead and imply something that is not true - really it's just "clickbait."

## The Gospel dies with the Supper<sup>1</sup>

by Hermann Sasse

In light of everything that we have said about the Lord's Supper on the basis of the New Testament, the fate of a church that has lost the Sacrament of the Altar is clear. A church that does not continually gather around the Supper must undergo secularization. It must irreversibly turn into a piece of the world, because the Supper establishes the boundary between church and world. This conclusion is confirmed by the experience of church history and especially of the history of worship in the last few centuries. The destruction of the Supper is followed by the disappearance of the living remembrance of Jesus from the hearts of Christians, especially of His suffering and death.

Thus, in the century of the Enlightenment, the fading away of the person of Jesus as the Biblical Redeemer into an indeterminate universal teacher who might just as well be called Moses or Socrates, was bound up with the decline of the Supper as the celebration of His inextinguishable remembrance. We have already spoken at length about the connection between the Sacrament of the Altar and belief in justification. Where Jesus Christ no longer Himself speaks to us in the Holy Supper the Gospel "given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," the message of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world necessarily fades away.

Christ certainly speaks this His Gospel to us not only in the Supper, but also in each of His words. He certainly does not need the Sacrament in order to impress this message on us, but He is pleased to make use of it. He has not only once offered the sacrifice for the sin of the world, nor does He merely keep on having this fact proclaimed. Rather, He who is high priest and sacrificial lamb in one, gives us a share in His sacrifice here and now. The unique occurrence on the Cross, which is at once a truly historical and truly supra-historical happening, is rendered present when Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen one, gives us His body sacrificed for us to eat and His blood shed for us to drink. Where this no longer happens because Christians have stopped celebrating the Supper, Christ's sacrifice turns from a reality into an idea, and the vicarious satisfaction for sins turns from a fact into a theory. In the place vacated by faith in the Son of God "who loved me and gave Himself for me," steps the intellectual conviction of the correctness of the doctrine of reconciliation. This doctrine will then very soon turn into a topic for general philosophical discussion, bandied about in apologetics; and it will eventually undermine faith altogether as it fuels doubt. Thus, the Gospel itself dies with the Supper.

*Welcome to all with us today!*

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

### COMING SERVICES

4 October 18 Pentecost	11 October 19 Pentecost	18 October 20 Pentecost
8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am MARBURG LR  8.30am TMBA HC Harvest Thanksgiving & Confirmation Service	8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.00am MINDEN LR  Confirmation Sunday at Aubigny. Time to be announced.	8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD LR  8.30am OAK HC Confirmation Service for family, friends and relatives of the confirmation class followed by 10.30am OAK HC for all other members, combined with GRN.
<b>Sunday, 4 October</b>		
READINGS: Isaiah 5:1-7; TMBA: Deuteronomy 26:1-11;	Philippians 3:4b-14; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15;	Matthew 21:33-46 Luke 12:13-21
HYMNS: 352 62 54 189 TMBA: 296 563 301 286 300		
<b>Sunday, 11 October</b>		
READINGS: Isaiah 25:6-9;	Philippians 4:4-13;	Matthew 22:1-14
HYMNS: 503 221 359 387 AUB: 296 221 301 299 291 300		

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, October 7, 10.00am. Women's Guild at LOWOOD. Opening Devotion: Alice. Key Word: Life. Item of Interest: Something beginning with "X" or your own choice.

<sup>1</sup> From: *Church and Lord's Supper*, translated by John Stephenson