

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

4 October 2020

Bulletin for the 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**HYMNS:** 352 62 54 189

**INTROIT:** O God of hosts, restore us and cause Your face to shine, that we may be saved!  
You uprooted a vine from Egypt. You drove the nations out and planted it.  
You cleared the ground for it. It put down its roots and filled the land.  
The mountains were covered with its shade, and the mighty cedars with its branches.  
It sent out its branches to the Sea and its shoots to the River.  
Why have You broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way have been plucking its fruit?  
The wild boar from the forest is ravaging it, and the small creatures of the field are feeding in it.  
O God of hosts, please return! Look down from heaven and see! Take care of this vine, of the root-stock that Your right hand has planted and of the cutting that You have let grow strong for Yourself!  
The vine has been burnt with fire and cut down. They are perishing at the rebuke of Your countenance.  
Let Your hand be on the man at Your right hand, the son of man whom You have let grow strong for Yourself!  
Then we shall not be disloyal to You. Give us life again! Then we shall call on Your name.  
O LORD, God of hosts, restore us! Make Your face shine, that we may be saved!

Psalm 80:7-19

**COLLECT:** Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men, who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; 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 5:1-7 God's disappointing vineyard.

Philippians 3:4b-14 The righteousness from God through faith; and pressing towards the goal.

Matthew 21:33-46 The parable about the wicked tenant-farmers.

**SERMON:** Matthew 21:33-46 Jesus is the Cornerstone

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**Jesus' kingdom of glory is His reign in heaven, where He is accompanied by His saints**

Sometimes the question is raised, "How can Jesus reign in heaven when the Bible tells us that, at the end of time, He will deliver all things into the hands of His Father?" (1 Cor. 15:24-28). Here we must remember the dual nature of Christ. As God, He will reign in heaven with the Father and the Holy Spirit. As man, this kingdom is given to Him. Christ, according to His human nature, still remains "less" than the Father, even though the human nature has received properties from the divine nature. As His Father has given Him a kingdom, so Christ will share that kingdom with us. Jesus said to His apostles, "I also confer on you a kingdom, as My Father has conferred one on Me, <sup>30</sup> that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom and that you may sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Luke 22:29-30).

Jesus' kingdom of glory will not be in this world, corrupted by sin. This world will be destroyed by fire at the end of time as Peter writes, "The day of the Lord will come like a thief. On that day the heavens will pass away with a roar, burning will destroy the elements and the earth and the works that are on it will become evident" (2 Peter 3:10). When believers die, their bodies decay, but their souls enter into the presence of God. Paul writes, "I am hard pressed between the two. I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far" (Philippians 1:23). On the Last Day, all the dead in Christ will be raised. Together with those who are still alive, we shall all be caught up into the air to stand before the judgment seat of Christ (1 Thess. 4:16-17). Believers will live forever in the new heaven and the new earth, forever with the Lord (2 Peter 3:13; 1 Thess. 4:17).

The Bible often describes heaven in terms of what will not be there, instead of in terms of what will be there. The psalmist wrote, "In Your presence there is fullness of joy. At Your right hand there are pleasures for ever" (Psalm 16:11). What is perfect joy? We have never experienced it in this world of sin. Thus the Bible describes heaven in terms of what will not be there. It says of those in heaven: "Therefore, they are before the throne of God and keep serving Him day and night in His Temple, and He who is sitting on the throne will shelter them with His tent. <sup>16</sup> They will not be hungry any longer or thirsty any longer. The sun will certainly not beat on them or any scorching heat, <sup>17</sup> because the Lamb, who is in the middle of the throne, will be their Shepherd and lead them to springs of the water of

life. God will wipe every tear from their eyes”(Revelation 7:15-17).

As long as we live in this world, we belong to the *church militant* (the church on earth, which must still fight the good fight of faith). We are beset by the problems sin causes sinners living in a sin-corrupted world. When we are in heaven, we will be members of the *church triumphant* (the church that reigns victoriously with Christ).

Though we are sinners, we have been washed clean by the blood of the Lamb. We are clothed in His righteousness (Revelation 7:9). Jesus has promised us that He will say, “Come, you whom My Father has blessed! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the time when the world was created” (Matthew 25:34). Then, as Paul says, “we shall always be with the Lord” (1 Thess. 4:17).

In joyful anticipation, then, we say with the hymn writer:

O sweet and blessed country,  
The home of God’s elect!  
O sweet and blessed country  
That eager hearts expect!  
In mercy, Jesus, bring us  
To that dear land of rest,  
Who art, with God the Father,  
And Spirit, ever blest. (Hymn 494:4)

Welcome to all with us today!

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Email him at [paziebell@gmail.com](mailto:paziebell@gmail.com) or to the church office at [ddaelc@gmail.com](mailto:ddaelc@gmail.com).

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

10/11 October 19 Pentecost	18 October 20 Pentecost	25 October Reformation Day
<p><b>Saturday, 10 October</b> 7.30pm MARBURG HC</p> <p><b>Sunday, 11 October</b> 8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.00am MINDEN LR</p>	<p>9.00am OAK HC combined with Greenwood 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD LR</p>	<p>8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am MINDEN HC</p>
9.30am AUB HC Confirmation Service	10.30am OAK HC Confirmation service	
<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	MARBURG: 503 221 359 159 294 387	

## 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. Please bring something along for a shared lunch.

Tuesday, October 13, 7.30pm. Men’s Fellowship at Oakey. Opening devotion: Robert.

### Bible Studies:

Wednesday, 15 October, Lowood.

Friday, 16 October, Greenwood.

Friday, 23 October, Aub/Oak at Oakey.

Sunday, 25 October, Minden.