

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

14 February 2021

The Transfiguration

HYMNS: 164 37 358 789 85 532

INTROIT: The God of gods, the LORD, has spoken; He has summoned the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Out of Zion, which is perfect in beauty, God has shone forth.

Our God will come and will not remain silent; a fire will devour before Him; it will be very stormy around Him.

He will summon the heavens above and the earth, that he may judge His people: "Gather around Me My devout people, those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice."

The heavens have been proclaiming His righteousness, for God Himself is Judge.

Psalm 50:1-6

COLLECT: O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud, You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same 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: Exodus 34:29-35 The shining face of Moses
2 Corinthians 3:12-18 & 4:1-6 God's glory is unveiled in Christ.
Mark 9:2-9 The transfiguration of Jesus.

SERMON: Exodus 34:29-35

THE VEILED GLORY WE POSSESS AS GOD'S CHILDREN

Welcome to all worshipping with us today! Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 46333604 or 0407583922.

Email him at paziebell@gmail.com or to the church office at draelc@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.

Scripture distinguishes between Antichrists and the Antichrist

There is no neutrality concerning Christ. Jesus said, “*He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who is not gathering with Me is scattering*” (Matthew 12:30). In general, people are either for Christ or they are against Him. Yet there are those who are more than just against Christ. There are those who, either individually or collectively, attack His person and work with great vehemence. Scripture speaks of these as Antichrists and the Antichrist. John made a distinction between them. In regard to Antichrists, he wrote: “*Children, it is the last hour and, as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know that it is the last hour.*”¹⁹ *They went out from us but did not belong to us. For, if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. However, they went out that they might be made known, because not all belong to us*” (1 John 2:18-19).

John spoke of the last hour, the time from the coming of the Antichrists to Christ’s second coming. He said that many Antichrists have come. These are the false prophets, the deceivers who have fallen away from the truth while still clinging to an outward connection with the visible church. John also wrote, “*Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This one is the Antichrist: he who denies the Father and the Son.*”²³ *Everyone who denies the Son does not have the Father either. The one who confesses*

the Son also has the Father (1 John 2:22-23). “*For many deceivers, who do not confess that Jesus Christ comes in a human body, have gone out into the world. This is the deceiver and the Antichrist*” (2 John 7). These errorists subvert the teaching of Scripture on Christ and His saving work. They overthrow the teaching of justification by grace through faith. They destroy the foundation of faith.

There have been Antichrists in every period of New Testament church history. In the apostles’ day, there were the Judaizers (cf. Galatians), who overthrew the doctrine of justification by their demands that people keep the Mosaic Law for salvation. There was Cerinthus, who was active at Ephesus around A.D. 100 (cf. John’s Gospel and 1 John). Cerinthus taught that Jesus was just a man upon whom a divine power descended at the time of His baptism and left Him at the time of His crucifixion. Thus he denied the true deity of Christ and His saving work. In the 2nd century, there were the Gnostics, who denied the true deity and the true humanity of Christ as well as His saving work. In the times around the Council of Nicaea (A.D. 325), there were the Manichaeans (from Mani, ca. 216-277), who taught that salvation came through denying one’s flesh; there were the Arians who denied the true deity of Jesus. In our day there are many who still deny the true deity of Christ and His saving work. All these are the Antichrists of whom John spoke.

Scripture speaks of many forces and powers which are actively hostile to Christ and His Church, and uses the term “Antichrist” with reference to some of them (Daniel 11:36-38; Matthew 24:22-25; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 3:1-9; 1 John 2:18-22 - compare the whole passage, 18-23; 1 John 4:1-6; 2 John 7; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, compare also 13-17.)

These and similar passages reveal to the Church that anti-Christian forces will appear in various recurrent forms until the end of time. So when we see these forces attacking the Church today, it really should come as no surprise to us. But we take heart, because Christ Himself has overcome the world (John 16:33). We can be of good cheer because Jesus has won the victory over the world. Jesus has overcome every temptation and every bit of opposition the world brought against Him, and He continues to assure us that He has finished the job of our salvation. His is the one true message of salvation. And what is that message? Because of His death and resurrection, we believe and live. Eternal life belongs to us!

COMING SERVICES

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES	21 February 1 Lent	28 February 2 Lent
Wednesday 17 th – 7.00pm LOWOOD HC	8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR
Thursday 18 th – 7.30pm OAK Vespers	9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD HC	10.00am GRN HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

READINGS: Joel 2:12-19; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

HYMNS: Marburg: 431 310 493 54 291 69
Oakey: 431 310 493 48 v.3

Sunday, 21 February

READINGS: Genesis 22:1-18; James 1:12-18; Mark 1:9-15

HYMNS: 756 195 345 (839 290) 754

Thursday, 25 February

7.30pm. 2nd mid-week Lenten Service at Toowoomba.

HYMNS: 79 171 159 48 v.3

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational AGM's

OAK: Today, 14 February, 1.00pm.

MARBURG: Today, immediately after service.

LOWOOD: Sunday, 21 February, immediately after service.