

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

17 February 2019

Bulletin for the 6th Sunday after the Epiphany

HYMNS: 500 306 818 450 v.6

INTROIT: Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of wicked people, stand in the path of sinners, or sit in the seat of scoffers!

Rather, his delight is in the Instruction of the LORD, and on His Instruction he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted beside streams of water, which produces its fruit in its season, and has leaves that do not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

The ungodly are not like that, but are like the chaff that the wind blows away.

Therefore wicked people will not stand in the judgment, or sinners in the assembly of righteous people.

For the LORD knows the way of righteous people, but the way of wicked people will perish.

Psalm 1

COLLECT: O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people, that we, who justly suffer the consequence of our sin, may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness, to the glory of Your name; 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: Jeremiah 17:5-8 Blessed is the person who trusts in the LORD.

1 Corinthians 15:1-20 Christ is our Hope!

Luke 6:17-26 Blessed are you.

SERMON: Luke 6:17-26 Blessed are you.

What constitutes an Orthodox Church?

An orthodox church is a “right-teaching” church. What determines if a church is a right-teaching church? Scripture indicates there are three standards. The church must teach all of God’s Word, no more, no less. It must administer the sacraments in accordance with Scripture. It must practice doctrinal discipline, so that its practice agrees with its profession of faith. A heterodox, or “false-teaching,” church is one that adds to or takes away from God’s Word. It does not administer the sacraments as Christ instituted them. It does not discipline those who teach false doctrine, thus creating a difference between its profession of faith and its practice.

In the first place, the church must teach all of God’s Word, no more, no less. Jesus said, “*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations... teaching them to keep all that I have commanded you,*” (Matt. 28:19-20). Jesus condemned the teachers of the law for adding to Scripture by placing their own interpretations of the law on the same plane as God’s Law (Matt. 15:9). The book of Revelation closes with this warning: “*I testify to everyone who hears the Words of this prophetic book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues that have written in this book. If anyone takes away any of the Words of this prophetic book, God will take away his part in the tree of life, in the Holy City, and in the things that have been written in this book,*” (Rev. 22:18-19).

When church bodies add their own laws or doctrines to what God has in the Bible, they identify themselves as false-teaching churches. When they indicate that they don’t think all doctrines of Scripture are important, that some can be dispensed with, that we can agree to disagree on some teachings of Scripture, they identify themselves as false-teaching churches. It is the Bible alone that can establish a doctrine. Those church bodies that teach contrary to Scripture are false-teaching churches.

Second, an orthodox church will administer the sacraments as Christ instituted them. When church bodies turn Baptism and the Lord’s Supper into sacrificial acts that we must perform simply because God said so, they indicate they are false-teaching churches. When church bodies deny the real presence of Christ’s body and blood in the Lord’s Supper or administer the Lord’s Supper in a way not in accordance with Christ’s institution, they identify themselves as false-teaching churches.

Finally, when a church body does not discipline those who teach false doctrine, they identify themselves as false-teaching churches. Jesus warned against false prophets in Matthew 7:15, “*Beware of false prophets! They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.*” Paul left Timothy in Ephesus so he could command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer, (1 Tim. 1:3). He told the Christians in Rome not to join in expressing their faith with those who created divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine they learned, (Rom. 16:17). Paul frequently warned against false teachers (2 Cor. 11:13; Titus 1:10-11; 2 Cor. 11:3). The Lutheran Church of Australia permits women to lead in the reading

of the Scripture lessons in church, and also to carry out the duties of an elder (assisting the pastor with HC, for example). This is contrary to its published confession, but if it permits people in its midst to disobey Christ's commandment regarding women in the church, then it identifies itself as a false teaching church.¹

How do we find a right-teaching church? We look at the church's published confessions. It is not enough to say; *The Bible is my confession*. The question is, *What do you say the Bible says?* Churches must state what they say the Bible says so we can compare it to what the Bible actually says. If a church's confession does not agree with Scripture, then it is a false-teaching church.

We adhere to the Lutheran Confessions as published in the Book of Concord of 1580. The three confessions that are common to all who call themselves Christians are the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian creeds. The six distinctly Lutheran confessions are Luther's Small Catechism (1529); Luther's Large Catechism (1529); the Augsburg Confession (the unaltered Confession of 1530; without the changes Philip Melanchthon made, which we reject, that made it possible for the Reformed to accept it); the Apology (defense) of the Augsburg Confession (1531); the Smalcald Articles (1537, with Melanchthon's treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Papacy); and the Formula of Concord (1577). These are the confessions to which we subscribe. In addition, from time to time, we have added other doctrinal statements to state our position on matters not treated specifically by the Lutheran Confessions, such as we find in our own *Statement of Faith*.

False-teaching churches, then, teach contrary to God's Word, add to God's Word, or take away from God's Word. They do not administer the sacraments in accord with Christ's institution. They live or teach contrary to God's Word, or they permit false teachers to promote error in their midst. A right-teaching church, then, teaches all the Word of God, no more, no less. It administers the sacraments as Christ instituted them. It practices doctrinal discipline so that its practice agrees with its profession.

Welcome to all worshipping with us today! May God bless our worship of Him by His serving of us!

Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 0407583922.

Email him at paziebell@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.

COMING SERVICES

24 February 7 Epiphany	3 March Transfiguration	10 March 1 Lent
8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC	8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC
Sunday, 24 February		
READINGS: Genesis 45:3-15; 1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42; Luke 6:27-38		
HYMNS: 465 431 356 (54 290) 339		
Sunday, 3 March		
READINGS: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Hebrews 3:1-6; Luke 9:28-36		
HYMNS: 347 37 747 (375 847) 152		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday, 23 February, 10.00am. CoC/Sem. Comm. meeting at Troys Road. Please forward any agenda items to the secretary, Ian Manz at: igm64@hotmail.com

Parish AGM: Sunday, 24 February, 7.30pm at Oakey.

ASH WEDNESDAY, 6 March, 7.30pm at Oakey.

Last Saturday (9th) the youth group went to Milne Bay to swim and then to McDonalds for a snack. We talked about how the water of the pool washes us clean and so does the water of baptism. We also talked about how the abbreviations 'CE' and 'BCE' are used instead of 'AD' and 'BC' and how this is an insidious way to imply that Christ did not historically come to earth. We also talked about how, when talking to people outside the church, it is important to know your facts. The next Youth Group will be a movie night at Toowoomba Church at 7pm on the 9th March. All Highschool aged children are welcome. Please bring your own popcorn and drinks.

¹ However, "In 1987 General Synod voted to permit women elders, on the understanding that the auxiliary office of elder does not have real or implied authority over people." *Doctrinal Statements and Theological Opinions of the LCA*. (This public statement of the LCA is false and dangerous, for this is clearly impossible if they are guided by the instruction and commandments of the Lord, 1 Cor. 14:34, 1 Tim. 2:12, PZ)