

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

3 January 2021

The Second Sunday after Christmas

HYMNS: 39 147 165 839 840 323

INTROIT:

Oh, how I love Your Instruction! It is my meditation all day long.
Your Commandments make me wiser than my enemies. For they are
always with me.

I have had more insight than all my teachers. For Your Testimonies are my
meditation.

I have been behaving more intelligently than the old men, because I have
been keeping Your Directions.

I have kept my feet back from every evil path that I may keep Your Word.
I have not turned away from Your Decisions. For You Yourself have taught me.
How delicious are Your Words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
Because of Your Directions I behave perceptively. Therefore, I hate every
false path. Psalm 119:97-104

COLLECT: Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of
Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives;
through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns
with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: 1 Kings 3:4 – 15 Solomon's prayer for wisdom.

Ephesians 1:3-14 Paul's thanksgiving and prayer.

Luke 2:40-52 The Boy Jesus in the Temple.

SERMON: 1 Kings 3:4-15 DIVINE WISDOM IS JESUS CHRIST AND HIS
GOSPEL OF SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN HIM

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.**

The Reason for the Season

The word Epiphany means to show forth or make known. The Epiphany season of the church year affords us an opportunity to see Jesus as He truly is “*our great God and Saviour*” (Titus 2:13), the One in whom “*all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily*” (Colossians 2:9).

We see Jesus’ glory as the only Son of God. We see it in His miracles and His teaching. We see it even in His wondrous grace in willingly coming into the world for the likes of us. Jesus has come to make the complete payment for the sins of all who had lived or ever would live.

In Spirit-created faith we see our Saviour as He is, as the eternally blessed God (Romans 9:5). During Epiphany it is important to be reminded that our Saviour is almighty God who has come with all power “*to search for and to save what has been lost*” (Luke 19:10).

Thanks to the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, we now see and believe in Jesus as the “*propitiation for our sins and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world*” (1 John 2:2). Throughout Holy Scripture we are repeatedly assured that Jesus is indeed God and Saviour. In the epistle to the Hebrews it is said (to Jesus), “*Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the sceptre of uprightness is the sceptre of Your kingdom*” (Hebrews 1:8).

A couple short weeks ago we witnessed our Saviour as the lowly Christ Child born in a stable and laid in a feed trough, seemingly helpless, yet He who lay there was and is “*the Image of the invisible God, the First-born of all creation, since in Him all things in heaven and on earth have been created, the visible things and the invisible things, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities. All things have been created through Him and for Him; and He has been before all things, and all things hold together in Him*” (Colossians 1:15-17).

Sad to say, most people consider Jesus as someone less than God. It is simply unscriptural to deny that Jesus is God, and blasphemy to say so.

It is vital to know and confess the true divinity of our Lord before the coming Lenten season when we once again will bear witness to His death. During Jesus’ passion the world sees Him as a mere man - weak, beaten, and dying. The unbelieving cannot see His death as the greatest act of love and sacrifice ever known. They fail to understand that the only way forgiveness of sins and life eternal could be won was through Jesus’ death as the sinners’ substitute.

Jesus didn't die as a broken and beaten man, but rather as our Redeemer with a shout of victory! *“Jesus cried out aloud, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.” After He had said this, He breathed His last”* (Luke 23:46). What humility on the part of the Saviour, for He *“He emptied Himself, took on the form of a slave and became like other human beings; and, when He was found in the appearance of a human being, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross”* (Philippians 2:7-8).

Rejoice, fellow redeemed, as with the eyes of Spirit-given faith we see the majestic glory of our God and Saviour! *“Furthermore, to Him who can keep you from falling and to make you stand without fault and with great joy in His glorious presence, to the only God, our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power and authority, before all ages and now and for ever and ever! Amen”* (Jude 24-25).

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 ddaelc@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

10 January 1 Epiphany (The Baptism of Jesus)	17 January 2 Epiphany	24 January 3 Epiphany
8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD HC	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR	8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA HC 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR
Sunday, 10 January		
READINGS: Genesis 1:1-15; Romans 6:1-11; Mark 1:4-11		
HYMNS: 823 13 831 (152 842) 279		

Sunday, 17 January

READINGS: 1 Samuel 3:1-20; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

HYMNS: 507 336 221 (311 335) 511

Sunday, 24 January

READINGS: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-35; Mark 1:14-20

HYMNS: 45 217 361 (311 335) 459

ANNOUNCEMENTS