

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

4 April 2021

The Resurrection of our Lord, Easter Sunday

HYMNS: 88 91 102 (103 104) 95

INTROIT: Protect me, O God! For I have taken refuge in You.

I have been saying to the LORD: "You are my Lord. Without You I have nothing good."

As for the holy people who are in the land, they are the excellent people, and all my delight is in them.

Those who run after another god will have many sorrows. I shall not pour out their libations of blood or take up their names on my lips.

O LORD, You are my allotted portion and my cup. You are firmly holding what has been allotted to me.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places. Surely, I have a delightful inheritance.

I shall bless the LORD, who has given me advice. Even during the nights my inmost parts teach me.

I have set the LORD before Me constantly. Because He is at My right hand, I shall not stagger.

Therefore, My heart is glad, and My glory rejoices. My body also will dwell securely. For You will not abandon My soul to Sheol or allow Your Faithful One to see decay.

You make known to Me the path of life. In Your presence there is fullness of joy. At Your right hand there are pleasures for ever.

Psalm 16

COLLECT: Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Isaiah 25:6-9 The LORD will prepare a banquet for all people

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 The resurrection of Christ

Mark 16:1-8 He has risen

SERMON: Mark 16:1-8 He has Risen!

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 Resurrection

Let's remember for a moment that first Good Friday. From 9 o'clock in the morning until noon there was a lot of activity. Jesus was nailed to the cross at 9 o'clock. Shortly thereafter, He prayed to His heavenly Father asking God to forgive those who had crucified Him. Jesus also heard the cry of the repentant criminal and had assured him that that day he would be with Him in paradise. Jesus also placed His mother into the care of His disciple John. The chief priests were busy criticising Pilate's inscription that said that Jesus was the king of the Jews.

And then noon came. It was at that time when God performed the first miracle of Good Friday. Of it we read: "*It was now about the sixth hour and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour,* ⁴⁵ *because the sun stopped shining*" (Luke 23:44-45)

From what we read, we receive the impression that a halt came to all the activity. Silence fell over the crowd. Then Jesus cried out, "*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*" (Matthew 27:46).

As He hung on the cross, Jesus experienced the Father's just judgment - wrath and punishment upon the sins of the world. A while later, after He had received the punishment for the sins of the world in full, He cried out, "*It is finished*" (John 19:30). Then, we read: "*The curtain in the Temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split.* ⁵² *The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had died were raised.* ⁵³ *They came out of the tombs, after Jesus had risen, went into the Holy City and appeared to many people*" (Matthew 27:51-53)

Of the Resurrection, Matthew writes, "¹ *After the Sabbath, as Sunday was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.* ² *There was a great earthquake. For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, went to the tomb, rolled the stone back and sat on it.* ³ *His appearance was like lightning and his clothes were as white as snow.* ⁴ *The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.* ⁵ *The angel told the women, "Do not be afraid! For I know that you are looking for Jesus, who has been crucified. He is not here. For He has risen, as He said. Come! See the place where He was lying!"* ⁷ *Then go quickly and tell His disciples, 'He has risen from the dead. Indeed, He is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see Him.' Be sure! I have told you."*

⁸ *The women hurried away from the tomb with fear and great joy and ran to tell His disciples.* ⁹ *Just then Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!"*

They went up to Him, took hold of His feet and worshipped Him.

¹⁰ Then Jesus told them, "Stop being afraid! Go and tell My brothers to go to Galilee! There they will see Me" (Matthew 28:1-10).

Late that same day, Jesus met several of His disciples traveling to Emmaus. He said to them, "O foolish people. and slow in your hearts to believe everything that the prophets have said! ²⁶ Was it not necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and enter His glory?" (Luke 24:25-26). They then turned around and returned to Jerusalem where the other disciples were. Jesus miraculously appeared before them and said, among other things: "These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled..." ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what Scripture has said: 'The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and, based on His name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:44, 46-47)

Fifty days later on Pentecost, St. Peter said to the crowd that had gathered: ²² "Men of Israel, listen to these words! Jesus of Nazareth was a Man whom God commended to you, as you yourselves know, by miracles, wonders and miraculous signs, which God worked among you through Him. ²³ This Man was handed over to you by God's set plan and foreknowledge, and you, with the hands of wicked men, nailed Him to a cross and put Him to death. ²⁴ Nevertheless, God raised Him and loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible for death to hold Him" (Acts 2:22-24).

Some years later, St. Paul said in Antioch of Pisidia: "The One whom God raised did not see decay. ³⁸ Therefore, let it be known to you, fellow-Jews, that through this Man forgiveness of sins is being announced to you, ³⁹ even from everything from which you could not be justified by the Law of Moses! Through Him everyone who believes is justified" (Acts 13:37-39).

About twenty years later, St. Paul wrote to the Romans, that Jesus was "handed over because of our offences and was raised for the sake of our justification" (Romans 4:25). About the same time he wrote in 1 Corinthians 15, his Resurrection chapter, these words: "³ For I delivered to you, first, what I also received: that Christ died for our sins as the Scriptures said He would, ⁴ and that He was buried and that He was raised again on the third day as the Scriptures said He would, ⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, He appeared to more than five hundred Christians at the same time, most of whom are still living, but some have fallen asleep" (15:3-6)

The risen Christ had told His disciples to meet Him in Galilee. St. Matthew concludes his Gospel with that meeting. Many believe that it was at that time when Jesus met with five hundred of His disciples. St. Matthew wrote: "¹⁶ The eleven disciples went to the mountain in Galilee where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshipped Him; but some doubted.

¹⁸ When Jesus came near, He spoke to them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. ¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations by baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and by teaching them to keep all that I have commanded you! Certainly, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (28:16-20).

All glory to our risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who has destroyed death and opened the way for us to enter eternal life with Him, the Father, and the Holy Spirit! Happy Easter!

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 ddaalc@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

2 Easter 11 April	3 Easter 18 April	4 Easter 25 April
8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA HC 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC 9.00am MARBURG LR	8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am MARBURG HC	8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD LR
Sunday, 11 April		
READINGS: Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31		
HYMNS: 101 434 457 (292 839) 105		
Sunday, 18 April		
READINGS: Acts 3:11-21; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36-49		
HYMNS: 112 90 221 97		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tomorrow, 5 April, 10.00am. Parish Picnic at Aubigny. Everyone is invited. Could each family please provide something for a shared lunch?

Wednesday, 7 April, 10.00am. Women's Guild at Marburg. Opening devotion: Vicki. Everyone: Choose a favourite Bible verse to read from Genesis 2. Item of interest: Favourite food.

Tuesday, 13 April, 7.30pm. Men's Fellowship at Oakey. Opening devotion: Barry.