

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

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Bulletin for the 3rd mid-week Lenten Service

HYMNS: 65 170 298 48 v.3

PSALM: Let me bless the LORD at all times! His praise will continually be in my mouth.

My soul will boast about the LORD. Humble people will hear it and rejoice.

Magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!

When I sought the LORD, He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

People have looked to Him and have been radiant, and their faces should never be ashamed.

This poor man called out. The LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him and delivers them.

Taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

Fear the LORD, you who are His holy people! For those who fear Him do not lack anything.

Young lions lack food and go hungry, but those who seek the LORD will not lack any good thing.

Come, you children, listen to me! I shall teach you the fear of the LORD.

Who is the man who delights in life and loves a long life, that he may see good?

Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceitfully!

Turn away from evil and do what is good! Seek peace and pursue it!

The eyes of the LORD are on righteous people, and His ears are attentive to their cry.

The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

People have been crying out, and the LORD has been hearing them, and has been rescuing them out of all their troubles.

The LORD is near to those who have broken hearts, and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

The righteous person has many troubles, but the LORD rescues him from them all.

He protects all his bones. Not one of them is broken.

Evil will kill the wicked person and those who hate the righteous person will suffer punishment.

The LORD redeems the lives of His servants, and none who take refuge in Him will suffer punishment.

COLLECT: Gracious Father in heaven, in countless ways we have transgressed against you, yet You have been merciful to us and have forgiven the guilt of our sin. Surround us with Your unfailing love that we may rejoice in Your great goodness now and forever. Through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERMON: Hebrews 4:14-16 Jesus is our compassionate High Priest

1st Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16

¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great High Priest, who has gone through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us cling to what we confess! ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses. However, we have One who has been tempted in every way like us. Yet He was without sin. ¹⁶ Therefore let us come boldly to the throne of grace to receive mercy and find grace to help us when we need it!

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Drawn from the Four Gospels, Part 3

Just then, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Therefore Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to Him, went out and asked them, “For whom are you looking?”

They answered Him, “Jesus of Nazareth.”

Jesus told them, “I am He.”

Judas, who was betraying Him, was also standing with them. When Jesus told them, “I am He,” they went backwards, and fell to the ground.

Therefore Jesus asked them again, “For whom are you looking?”

They said, “Jesus of Nazareth.”

Jesus answered, “I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if I am the One for whom you are looking, let these men go!”

This happened in order that the statement that He had made might be fulfilled: “I have not lost any of those whom You have given Me.”

The man who was betraying Him had given them a signal. He told them, “The One whom I kiss is the One. Arrest Him, and lead Him away securely!”

When he came, he immediately went up to Jesus and said, “Rabbi,” and kissed Him.

However, Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

Then the men came forward, took hold of Jesus, and arrested Him.

When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they asked, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?” Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus.

Then Jesus told him, “Put your sword back in its place! For all who take the sword will die by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot call on My Father, so that He will at once provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?” Then He touched the servant’s ear and healed him.

At that time Jesus asked the crowd, “Have you come out to arrest Me with swords and clubs as if I were a robber? Every day I have been sitting and teaching in the temple, and you have not arrested Me. However, all this has happened so that the writings of the prophets may be fulfilled.”

Then all His disciples deserted Him and ran away. A certain young man was also following Him wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They tried to take hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.¹

Then the troop of soldiers, the commander, and the Jewish assistants arrested Jesus, and tied Him up. They took Him to Annas first. For he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was the high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews, “It is better that one Man should die for the people.”

Simon Peter was following Jesus, and so was another disciple. That other disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the high priest’s courtyard. However, Peter was standing outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the girl watching the door, and brought Peter inside.

So the servant-girl who was keeping the door asked Peter, “You are not one of this Man’s disciples too, are you?”

He answered, “I am not.”

The slaves and the assistants were standing around and had made a heap of burning coals, because it was cold, and they were warming themselves. Peter was also standing with them and warming himself.²

While Peter was in the courtyard below, one of the servant girls of the chief priest came, and when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked directly at him and said, “You were with Jesus of Galilee.”

But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about. Woman, I do not know Him.”

When Peter went out to the entry way, someone else saw him and said to those who were there, “This is one of them. This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

Again Peter denied it with an oath and said, “I do not know the Man.”

After a little while those who stood by came and said to Peter, “Surely you are also one of them, because even your accent gives you away. You are a Galilean!”

Then he began to curse and to swear, “I do not know this Man you are talking about! I do not know the Man!” At that very moment, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the Lord’s word, how He had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today you will deny Me three times.” He went outside, broke down

¹ Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-52; Luke 22:47-54; John 18:1-14; Mark 14:51-52

² John 18:12-18

and wept bitterly.³

Then the high priest questioned Jesus about His disciples and His teaching.

Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I always taught in a synagogue or at the temple, where all the Jews gather. I said nothing in secret. Why question Me? Ask those who heard what I told them. Look, they know what I said."

When He said this, one of the officers standing there struck Jesus in the face. "Is that how you answer the high priest?" he demanded.

"If I said something wrong," Jesus answered, "testify about what was wrong. But if I said what is right, why do you hit Me?"⁴

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they could put Him to death. They found none, even though many false witnesses came forward. Finally, two came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" Yet even on this point, their testimony did not agree.

The high priest stood up and said to Him, "Have You no answer? What is this that these men are testifying against You?" But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to Him, "I place You under oath by the living God: tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"

Jesus said to him, "It is as you have said. But I tell you, soon you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? See, you have just heard the blasphemy! What do you think?"

They answered, "He is deserving of death!" Then some began to spit on Him. They covered His face, struck Him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who hit You?" The guards also took Him and beat Him. And they went on saying many other blasphemous things against Him.⁵

P: Here ends the reading.

The congregation stands

³ Matthew 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:54-62; John 18:15-18, 25-27

⁴ John 18:19-23

⁵ Matthew 26:57-68; Mark 14:53-65; Luke 22:65