

DARLING DOWNS PARISH OF THE AELC
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BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA

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Bulletin for the 5th Lenten Service

HYMNS: 71 356 66 48 v.3

PSALM: Answer Me, O LORD! For Your mercy is good. According to Your great compassion, turn to Me!

Do not hide Your face from Your Servant! For I am in trouble. Answer Me quickly!

Come close to My soul! Redeem it! Ransom Me because of My enemies!

You Yourself know My disgrace, My shame, and My humiliation. All those who are hostile to Me are before You.

Insult has broken My heart, and I am sick. I looked for sympathy, but there was none, and for people to comfort Me, but I found no one.

They gave Me poison for My food, and **for My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink.**

Let the table set before them become a trap and a snare for their friends!

Let their eyes become darkened so that they may not see, and make their loins shake constantly!

Pour Your indignation out on them! Let the glow of Your anger overtake them!

Let their camp be made desolate! Let there be no one to dwell in their tents!

For they have been persecuting the One whom You Yourself have struck down, and they talk about the pain of those whom You have pierced.

Add guilt to their guilt, and let them not enter Your righteousness!

Let them **be blotted out of the book of the living**, and let them **not be recorded** with righteous people!

However, I am wretched and in pain. Let Your salvation protect Me, O God!

Let Me praise the name of God with a song, and let Me magnify Him with thanksgiving!

This will please the LORD more than an ox, more than a bull with its horns and hoofs.

When humble people have seen this, they will rejoice. You who seek God, may your hearts revive!

For the LORD listens to the needy. He has not despised His captive people.

Psalm 69:16-33

COLLECT: God of might and compassion, open Your ears to the prayers of Your people, who wait for You. Do not leave us in the depths of our sins, but listen to Your Church pleading for the fullness of Your redemption, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

SERMON: Hebrews 13:10-16 Jesus our great High Priest serves at a great altar

Hebrews 13:10-16

¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who are serving the Tabernacle have no right to eat. ¹¹ For the bodies of the animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the High Priest as a sin-offering are burnt outside the camp. ¹² Therefore, Jesus also suffered outside the gate to make the people holy through His own blood. ¹³ Let us, then, go to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach! ¹⁴ For here we have no continuing city but are looking for the future one. ¹⁵ Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that praise His name! ¹⁶ Do not forget to do good and to share! For with such sacrifices God is pleased.

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 5

At every feast the governor used to release to the crowd one prisoner whom they chose. At that time they were holding a well-known prisoner called Barabbas. He had been in prison with the rebels who had committed a murder in the rebellion. The crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. Pilate answered them by asking, "Do you want me to release 'the King of the Jews' for you?" For he knew that the chief priests had handed Jesus over because they were jealous. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent someone to tell him, "Do not have anything to do with that innocent Man! For I have suffered greatly today in a dream because of Him."

However, the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus put to death. The governor asked them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?"

They said, "Barabbas."

Pilate asked them, "Then what should I do with Jesus, who is called 'Christ'?"

They all said, "Let Him be crucified!"

Pilate said, “No, what wrong has He done?”

Nevertheless, they began to shout even louder: “Let Him be crucified!”

Then Pilate spoke to them the third time, “No. What wrong has He done? I have found nothing in Him to make Him deserve to die. I shall therefore chastise Him and release Him.”

However, they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He should be crucified, and their voices began to prevail. Then Pilate decided that what they demanded should be done.

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that a riot was breaking out instead, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd. He said, “I am innocent of this Man’s blood. You will see to it yourselves.”

All the people answered, “Let His blood be on us and on our children!”

Then Pilate, wanting to satisfy the people, released Barabbas to them, but he scourged Jesus, and handed Him over to be crucified.

The soldiers took Him away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium), and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on Him, twisted together a crown of thorns, put it on Him, and began to greet Him: “Welcome, King of the Jews!” They kept hitting Him on the head with a stick, **spitting** on Him, kneeling down, and paying homage to Him.¹

Pilate went outside again and told them, “Look! I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no cause for complaint in Him.”

Jesus came outside, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate told them, “Look at the Man!”

Therefore when the chief priests and the attendants saw Him, they shouted, “Crucify, crucify!”

Pilate told them, “Take Him yourselves and crucify Him! For I do not find any basis for a charge against Him.”

The Jews answered him, “We have a Law, and according to the Law He ought to die, because He has made Himself the Son of God.”

When Pilate heard them say that, he was more afraid. He went into the governor’s quarters again and asked Jesus, “From where are You?”

However, Jesus did not give him an answer. Therefore Pilate asked Him, “Are You refusing to speak to me? Do You not realise that I have authority to free You and authority to crucify You?”

Jesus answered him, “You would not have any authority at all over Me if it had

¹ Matt. 27:15-26; Mark 15:6-15; Luke 23:17-25; John 18:39-40; 19:1

not been given to you from above. That is why the man who has handed Me over to you has the greater sin.”

From then on Pilate kept trying to release Jesus, but the Jews shouted out, “If you let this Man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Everyone who makes himself a king is speaking against Caesar.”

Therefore, when Pilate heard these words, he took Jesus outside, and sat down in the judge’s seat at a place called “the Stone Pavement,” or “Gabbatha” in Aramaic. It was the day of the Preparation of the Passover, and about six in the morning. Pilate told the Jews, “Look at your King!”

Therefore they shouted, “Away with Him! Away with Him! Crucify Him!”

Pilate asked them, “Am I to crucify your King?”

The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.”

Then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.²

After they had made fun of Him, they took the robe off Him, and put His own clothes on Him. Then they led Him away to crucify Him. Jesus went out, carrying His own cross, to the place that was called “the Place of the Skull,” which is called “Golgotha” in Aramaic. As they led Jesus away, they took hold of Simon, a man from Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and they laid the cross on him, to carry it behind Jesus. A large crowd of the people followed Him. The women in the crowd were mourning and weeping for Him. Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for Me! Rather, weep for yourselves and for your children! For indeed the days are coming when people will say, ‘Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that have not borne children, and the breasts that have not suckled!’ Then **people** will begin to **say to the mountains: ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills: ‘Cover us!’** For, if they do these things to the green tree, what will be done to the dry one?”³

P: Here ends the reading.

The congregation stands.

² John 19:4-16

³ Matt. 27:31-32; Mark 15:16-19; Luke 23:26-31; John 19:16-17