

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

25 March 2018
Bulletin for Palm Sunday

HYMNS: 86 10 733 758

INTROIT: Open to me the gates of righteousness! I shall enter through them. I shall give thanks to the LORD.

This is the gate of the LORD, through which righteous people will enter. I shall give thanks to You. For You have answered me, and You have become my Salvation.

The Stone that the builders rejected has become the Cornerstone. This has come from the LORD. It is marvellous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made. **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, please give us success!

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you all from the house of the LORD.

The LORD is God, and has given us light. Tie the festive procession together with leafy branches as far as the horns of the altar!

You are my God, and I shall give thanks to You. You are my God. Let me honour You highly.

Give thanks to the LORD! For He is good. For His mercy endures for ever. I shall delight in Your Statutes. I shall not forget Your Word.

Psalm 118:19-29

COLLECT: Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Zechariah 9:9-12 Rejoice, Jerusalem, your King comes to you
Philippians 2:5-11 He became obedient to death
John 12:12-19 Jesus rides into Jerusalem

SERMON: Hebrews 12:1-6 The way of the kingdom

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a large cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every impediment, and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and let us run with patient endurance the race that has been set before us! ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith! For the sake of the joy that was set before Him, He endured the cross, despising its shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider Him who has endured such opposition against Himself from sinful men, so that you may not become weary or discouraged in your souls! ⁴ In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ You have also forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons: “My son, do not regard lightly the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you! ⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one whom He loves, and He whips every son whom He receives.”

The Triumphal Entry

Jesus had arrived at Bethany on Friday. The dinner, the anointing, and the gathering of the crowd took place after His arrival, with the Sabbath (Friday dusk to Saturday dusk) intervening. On the next day (Palm Sunday), the ever-growing crowd that had arrived in Jerusalem for the festival learned that Jesus was on His way there. They cut palm branches and went out to meet Him. They received Him as a king, as the Jewish leaders feared they might. They hailed Him with words from Psalm 118:25-26, “Hosanna!” (“Save, I pray!”) “Blessed is He who is coming in the name of the Lord!” This psalm was from the Hallel (Psalms 113–118), sung as part of the Passover feast. Jews sang it when the Passover lambs were sacrificed, and now they sang it for the Lamb of God on His way to be their sacrifice. But they weren’t thinking of sacrifice. They received Jesus as heavenly royalty, Israel’s King.

It happened spontaneously, but it was foretold years earlier. Jesus rode a young donkey, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9, “*Rejoice greatly, daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, daughter of Jerusalem! Look! Your King is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious. He is humble and is riding on a donkey, yes, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*” The King of Zion (Jerusalem), the messianic King from David’s line,

entered Jerusalem amid praise and glory.

People often describe themselves as optimists or pessimists. The optimist sees a glass half full, the pessimist half empty. Either way, the goal is to have a full glass, right? An empty glass is just something to look at, while a full glass means you have an entire beverage still awaiting you. A full glass gives you hope and anticipation; an empty glass means the happiness has departed.

We Christians are often mocked for what we celebrate in this week ahead. First, many will say that Jesus' Passion, riding into Jerusalem on this Palm Sunday only to be killed on Friday, demonstrates that we Christians love wallowing in pessimism, that celebrating Jesus emptied of all dignity, even of life itself, expresses some kind of deep-seated need to beat ourselves up, always to look on the dark side. They'd say we Christians must feel too guilt-ridden ever to allow ourselves a full glass of life.

Then, by the climax of Holy Week, Easter morning, we'll be mocked for foolish optimism - for believing a myth that some ancient figurehead of ours, Jesus Christ, actually rose from the dead. Get a life, we're told. Deal with the realities of this world as they are. Address the problems going on around us rather than wasting our time dreaming of some pie in the sky. Foolish, glass-half-full, whistling-in-the-dark optimism.

A blessed Holy Week to you! - a week when it's not about glass half full or glass half empty; it's about Jesus emptying Himself in order to make us full.

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

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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

29 March Maundy Thursday	30 March Good Friday	1 April Easter Sunday
7.30pm AUB 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
Maundy Thursday		
READINGS: Exodus 12:1-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32; John 13:1-17, 31b-35		
HYMNS: 85 49 84 292 320 57 part 1		
Good Friday, 30 March		
READINGS: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 19:17-30		
HYMNS: 59 63 75 (327 333) 58 part 1		
Easter Sunday, 1 April		
READINGS: Isaiah 25:6-9; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8		
HYMNS: 88 761 105 (91 839) 95		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, 2 April, 10.00am Parish Picnic at Aubigny. Could each family please provide something for a shared lunch? Children, if you didn't last week, please take a colouring-in picture home with you today and enter it in the colouring-in competition at the Parish Picnic.

Wednesday, 4 April. 10.00am, Women's Guild at Oakey. Opening Devotion: Kathie.
Key Word: Hunger. Item of Interest: Something beginning with "B".

There will be NO Family Evening held in April.