

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

17 March 2019

Bulletin for the Second Sunday in Lent

**HYMNS:** 76 385 30 85

**INTROIT:** Answer me when I call, O my righteous God! You have made wide room for me in my distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer!

O sons of man, how long will my glory be disgraced? How long will you love what is empty and search for what is a lie?

Know that the LORD has singled out for Himself the one who is devout. The LORD will hear when I call to Him.

**Tremble, and do not sin!** Tell this to yourselves on your beds, and be silent!

Offer righteous sacrifices, and trust in the LORD!

Many are saying, "Who will show us anything good?" Lift up the light of Your face on us, O LORD!

You have put more joy in my heart than people have when their grain and their new wine have increased.

Let me at once lie down in peace, and sleep! For You alone, O LORD, will make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 4

**COLLECT:** O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power, defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**READINGS:** Jeremiah 26:8-15 Jeremiah prophesies against Jerusalem.

Philippians 3:17-4:1 We are citizens of heaven.

Luke 13:31-35 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one that kills the prophets."

**SERMON:** Luke 22:39-53 Darkness reigns

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<sup>39</sup> Jesus came out and went to the Mount of Olives, as He usually did, and His disciples also followed Him. <sup>40</sup> When He reached the place, He told them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation!"

<sup>41</sup> He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and began to pray: <sup>42</sup> "Father, if You are willing, take this cup away from Me! However, let not My will, but Yours, be done!"

<sup>43</sup> An angel appeared to Him from heaven and strengthened Him. <sup>44</sup> He began to be in anguish, and prayed more earnestly; and His sweat became like clots of blood falling down to the ground. <sup>45</sup> When He rose up from the prayer and came to the disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow. <sup>46</sup> He asked them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray, that you may not enter into temptation!"

<sup>47</sup> While He was still speaking, they saw a crowd, and the man who was called "Judas," one of the Twelve, was coming in front of them. He came close to Jesus to kiss Him.

<sup>48</sup> However, Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

<sup>49</sup> When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they asked, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?"

<sup>50</sup> A certain one of them struck the servant of the chief priest and cut off his right ear. <sup>51</sup> However, Jesus answered, "Stop! No more of this!" Then He touched his ear and healed him.

<sup>52</sup> Then Jesus asked those who had come for Him, the chief priests, the captains of the temple, and the elders: "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? <sup>53</sup> When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not stretch out your hands against Me. Rather, this is your hour, when darkness reigns."

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### **Jerusalem, the one that kills the prophets.**

Herod Antipas was the ruler over the provinces of Galilee and Perea (an area east of the Jordan River). In our Gospel today, we find some Pharisees coming to Jesus and asking Him to "*Leave here, and go away! For Herod wants to kill You,*" (Luke 13:31). Asking Jesus to "*leave here,*" would indicate that Jesus was still traveling through one of these two provinces.

Why some of the Pharisees would come to Jesus with this warning has been interpreted in various ways, however, the most likely answer is that the Pharisees are guilty of malice and hypocrisy; the motive for their warnings about Herod's evil intents may be to turn Jesus from His appointed path, to keep Jesus from completing God's plan of salvation - a plan they have already rejected "*for themselves*" when they rejected the baptism of John (Luke 7:30). It is also possible that they simply wanted to scare Jesus out of their surroundings. If the Pharisees were speaking out of one of these hostile motives, then were Jesus to heed their warnings, He would be a false prophet who seeks to avoid

the suffering and martyrdom of the prophets before Him (cf. Luke 11:47-52). But if He ignores their warnings, then He faithfully continues His ministry, even though He knows it will lead directly to Jerusalem and the spectre of the cross.

Jesus sends the Pharisees back to Herod with the message that He will continue His work as Servant of the Lord till He reaches His goal. <sup>32</sup> *He answered them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Look! Today and tomorrow I am driving out demons and working healings and on the third day I shall be perfected!'* <sup>33</sup> *Nevertheless I must be on My way today, tomorrow and the next day, because it is impossible that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem.* <sup>34</sup> *"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one that kills the prophets and stones those who have been sent to it! How often I have wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, but you have not been willing!"* <sup>35</sup> *Look! Your house is abandoned to your disadvantage. I also tell you, you certainly will not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'"*

Jesus calls Herod a "fox." This term was used by Jewish rabbis as an epithet for a crafty or sly person. Herod will not determine the outcome of Jesus' life. Jesus knows that He will die where true prophets have died before: in Jerusalem (11:47-51). Jesus is speaking figuratively when He refers to His goal as being reached *on the third day*. Christian readers of this gospel cannot see this as anything but a reference to His resurrection on the third day.

How sad that Jesus should die in Jerusalem! He dearly wanted to gather the inhabitants of that sacred city under His protecting care. But speaking directly to the city, Jesus utters those sad words: *"but you have not been willing."* The "house" that Jesus says *"is abandoned"* may refer to the spiritual bankruptcy of the temple and its worship. Or perhaps it is a veiled hint of the coming destruction of the city by the Romans.

Jesus closes His message to Jerusalem with words quoted from Psalm 118:26, words used by the Jews as part of their liturgy on great festival days. The disciples would shout these very words when Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem as the humble King on Palm Sunday (Luke 19:38). In a more far reaching sense, they refer to the final advent when all the world will recognise Jesus as the One who comes in the name of the Lord not as Saviour but as judge.

*Welcome to all worshipping 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](http://www.aelc.org.au).

**Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.**

## COMING SERVICES

20 March WEDNESDAY	24 March 3 Lent	27 March WEDNESDAY
7.30pm TMBA Vespers	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC	7.30pm AUB Vespers
<b>Wednesday, 20 March</b>		
HYMNS: 73 68 338 48 v.3		
<b>Sunday, 24 March</b>		
READINGS: Ezekiel 33:7-20;	1 Corinthians 10:1-13;	Luke 13:1-9
HYMNS: 358 414 342 (313 291) 84		
<b>Wednesday, 27 March</b>		
HYMNS: 69 790 74 48 v.3		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS