

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

24 March 2019

Bulletin for the Third Sunday in Lent

**HYMNS:** 358 414 342 313 291 84

**INTROIT:** LORD, You have been favourable to Your land. You have brought Jacob back from captivity.

You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people. You have covered all their sin.

You have taken back all Your fury. You have turned away from Your fierce anger.

Restore us, O God, You who save us! Withhold Your indignation toward us!

Will You be angry with us for ever? Will You prolong Your anger through all generations?

Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?

Show us Your mercy, O LORD, and grant us Your salvation!

Let me hear what God, the LORD, will speak! For He will promise peace to His people, to His devout people. However, let them not become foolish again!

Surely His salvation is near those who fear Him, in order that glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together. Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth will sprout up from the earth, and righteousness will look down from heaven.

The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its produce.

Righteousness will go before Him, to prepare a way for His footsteps.

Psalm 85

**COLLECT:** O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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:** Ezekiel 33:7-20 I shall judge each of you according to his own ways.

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 These things happened as lessons for us.

Luke 13:1-9 Unless you repent, you will all perish.

**SERMON:** Luke 22:39-53 Truth Scorned

<sup>54</sup> They arrested Him, led Him away, and took Him into the chief priest's house. However, Peter followed at a distance. <sup>55</sup> When the men had lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard, and had sat down together, Peter sat down among them. <sup>56</sup> A certain servant girl saw him sitting at the light. She looked at him closely, and said, "This man was also with Him."

<sup>57</sup> However, he denied it, saying, "I do not know Him, woman."

<sup>58</sup> After a little while another man saw him and said, "You are also one of them."

However, Peter said, "Man, I am not."

<sup>59</sup> Then after about an hour had passed, another man began to assert: "It is certain that this man also was with Him. For, indeed, he is a Galilean."

<sup>60</sup> Peter replied, "Man, I do not know what you are saying."

Just then, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. <sup>61</sup> Then the Lord turned and looked straight at Peter, and Peter remembered the Word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times."

<sup>62</sup> Then he went outside and wept bitterly.

<sup>63</sup> The men who were holding Jesus in custody were making fun of Him as they struck Him. <sup>64</sup> They covered His face and kept asking Him: "Prophecy! Who hit You?"

<sup>65</sup> They went on insulting Him in many other ways.

<sup>66</sup> In the morning, the council of elders of the people, including the chief priests and the scribes, held a meeting. They brought Jesus before their council and asked, <sup>67</sup> "Are You the Christ? Tell us!"

He replied to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe Me. <sup>68</sup> If I ask you a question, you will not answer. <sup>69</sup> However, from now on the Son of Man will be sitting at the right hand of the power of God."

<sup>70</sup> All of them asked, "Are You, then, the Son of God?"

He answered them, "As you say: I am He."

<sup>71</sup> They asked, "Why do we need any more testimony? We ourselves have heard Him say it."

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.**

While the media continues to report on the tragedy that unfolded in Christchurch a week or so ago on two mosques, and politicians line up to denounce the bloodshed, yet hardly anything is reported about the ongoing persecution of Christians the world over. Practically every day Christians are put to death for their faith, and the media remain silent. The following are a couple accounts of recent Christian persecution.

At least 120 people have been killed in a series of alleged attacks by the Fulani militia on Christian communities in the Adara chiefdom of southern Kaduna in Nigeria since February, according to the non-profit group Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW).

The organisation reported 52 people were killed and 100 homes were destroyed a week ago in the latest attacks on Inkirimi and Dogonnoma villages in Maro, Kajuru Local Government Area (LGA). The victims included women and children.

Survivors of the attack told CSW that their assailants divided into three groups. One group shot and killed people, another set fire to homes as people ran away, and the third waited in the bush to intercept fleeing villagers.

Later that same day, dozens of people were injured and 43 houses were destroyed in another attack by militant Fulani herdsmen on another village.

The Fulani herdsmen, also known as the Fulani militia, are a semi-nomadic group herding cattle over vast areas, living in the central regions of Nigeria. The majority of the herdsmen are Muslim and have fought with Christian farmers over grazing land for centuries.

Disagreements between herders and local farmers over land, grazing areas, and water are said to be the major source of the ongoing conflict between the two groups, according to the BBC.

Militant Fulani herdsmen killed thousands of Christians last year, The Christian Post reports.

Nigeria ranks as the 12th worst country in the world for Christian persecution, according to the Open Doors USA's 2019 World Watch List.

Closer to home, and again, not reported by mainstream media or denounced by politicians, at least 18 people were killed when a Catholic church was hit by a double bomb attack on a southern Philippine island that is a stronghold of Islamist militants on Sunday, January 27.

A powerful first explosion occurred inside as Mass was being celebrated in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Jolo in the Catholic-majority nation's restive south.

Shortly afterwards, a second explosion outside apparently targeted troops who were rushing to help the wounded in the smoking and heavily damaged church on Jolo, which is overwhelmingly Muslim.

It is one of the deadliest bomb attacks to strike the insurgency-plagued southern Philippines in years, and shows the violence in the region is not over despite recent steps toward peace, experts said.

Five soldiers, a member of the coast guard and 12 civilians were among the dead, regional military spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Gerry Besana said.

At least 82 people were injured, including 65 civilians, 15 soldiers and two coast guard members, the Armed Forces of the Philippines West Mindanao Command (WestMinCom) said. By 6 p.m., 18 casualties had been evacuated from Sulu to Zamboanga city by air ambulance.

The second bomb was left in the utility box of a motorcycle in the parking area outside the church, a military report said.

There have been at least 10 attacks against or near the cathedral since 2000, Rappler reported.

ISIS claimed via its Amaq propaganda agency that "two martyrs of the Islamic state carried out a double suicide attack." In a statement, ISIS claimed the first detonated an explosive belt near the entrance to the church and the second detonated an explosive belt in the parking area.

These are but a couple examples of Christian persecution. Please pray that in the face of persecutions, Christians never waver in their faith.

*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

27 March WEDNESDAY	31 March 4 Lent	3 April WEDNESDAY
7.30pm AUB Vespers	10.00am HC OAK Parish Service	7.30pm OAK Vespers
<b>Wednesday, 27 March</b>		
HYMNS: 69 790 74 48 v.3		
<b>Sunday, 31 March</b>		
READINGS: Isaiah 12:1-6; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32		
HYMNS: 60 852 72 315 287 159		
<b>Wednesday, 3 April</b>		
HYMNS: 175 66 779 48 v.3		