

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

31 March 2019

Bulletin for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

HYMNS: 60 852 72 315 287 159

INTROIT: Blessed is the person whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is covered!

Blessed is the person whose iniquity the LORD does not count against him, and in whose spirit is no deceit!

When I kept silent, my bones became brittle because of my groaning all day long.

For Your hand lay heavily on me by day and by night. The dry heat of summer overturned my energy.

I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not conceal my iniquity. I said, "I shall confess my rebellious acts to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

For this reason let every devout person pray to You in a time when You may be found. Surely, when great floodwaters come they will not reach him.

You are a hiding place for me. You will protect me from trouble. You will surround me with shouting over deliverance.

"I shall instruct you. I shall teach you in the way that you should go. I shall advise you with My eye on you.

"Do not be like a horse or mule, which cannot understand! They must be restrained with a bit and bridle, as their ornaments, or they will not stay near you."

The wicked man will have many pains, but mercy will surround the one who trusts in the LORD.

Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous people! Ring out a shout of joy, all you who are upright in heart!

Psalm 32

COLLECT: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and although we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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: Isaiah 12:1-6 Sing to the LORD! For He has done sublime things.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Christ reconcile the world by exchanging His righteousness for its sin.

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 The Man welcomes sinners and eats with them.

SERMON: Luke 23:1-25 Humanity at its Worst

¹ Then the whole assembly rose and took Him to Pilate. ² They began to accuse Him: "We found that He makes our people disloyal, keeping them from paying taxes to Caesar, and saying that He is Christ, a King."

³ Pilate asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered him, "Yes, it is as you say."

⁴ Pilate told the chief priests and the crowd, "I do not find this Man guilty at all."

⁵ However, they kept insisting, "He stirs up the people by teaching all over Judea. He began in Galilee and has come here."

⁶ When Pilate heard that, he asked if the Man was a Galilean. ⁷ When he found out that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸ When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, because for a long time he had wanted to see Him. For he had been hearing about Him, and was hoping to see some miracle done by Him. ⁹ Herod asked Him many questions, but Jesus did not answer him at all. ¹⁰ The chief priests and the scribes were standing there and accusing Him vehemently. ¹¹ Herod and his soldiers treated Jesus with contempt and mocked Him. They put a splendid garment on Him and sent Him back to Pilate. ¹² On that very day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other. For before this they had been enemies of each other.

¹³ Then Pilate called the chief priests, the rulers, and the people together. ¹⁴ He told them, "You have brought this Man to me as one who is inciting the people to rebellion. Now, look! I have examined this Man before you and found Him innocent of the charges that you are making against Him. ¹⁵ No, neither has Herod. For he has sent Him back to us; and, as you can see, He has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶ Therefore, I shall chastise Him and release Him."

¹⁸ The whole crowd then began to shout aloud: "Away with this Man! Release Barabbas for us!"

¹⁹ Barabbas had been thrown into prison for a revolt that had taken place in the city and for murder. ²⁰ Pilate spoke to them again, because he wanted to release Jesus. ²¹ However, they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

²² 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."

²³ However, they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He should be crucified, and their voices began to prevail. ²⁴ Then Pilate decided that what they demanded should be done. ²⁵ He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they were asking, and he delivered Jesus for them to do what they wanted.

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.**

The Great Exchange

In our Second Reading today, Paul makes the startling claim, “*God made Him who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God,*” (2 Cor. 5:21). This is God’s “Great Exchange.” On the one side is Jesus, the one who “*did not know sin.*” He had experienced temptation many a time. In fact, He had been “*tempted in every way, just as we are,*” (Hebrews 4:15), but He had never succumbed to temptation. He had never personally experienced what it means to sin nor what it means to be a sinner. Peter says, “*He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth,*” (1 Peter 2:22). He is the “*Lamb without blemish or defect,*” (1 Peter 1:19).

On the other side was us. By us Paul includes himself and everyone who has ever lived and will ever live. The “us” side is not a pretty picture. In Romans, Paul combines several Old Testament passages to paint the picture of us: “*There is no one righteous, not even one.*”¹¹ “*There is no one who understands, there is no one who searches for God.*”¹² “*All have turned away; they have together become worthless. There is no one who does good, there is not even one.*”¹³ “*Their throats are an open grave. With their tongues they have been practising deceit.*” “*The poison of vipers is under their lips.*”¹⁴ “*Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.*”¹⁵ “*Their feet run quickly to shed blood.*”¹⁶ “*There is destruction and misery on their roads,*”¹⁷ and they have not learned the way of peace.”¹⁸ “*There is no fear of God before their eyes,*” (3:10–18)

On the “us” side is only sin, lack of righteousness, which merits death. On the Jesus side is what the “us” side desperately needs, righteousness, holiness, which gives life.

Then came the exchange: “*God made Him who did not know sin to be sin for us.*” Note the words “*God made.*” Christ’s crucifixion on Calvary with the world’s sins upon Him was no accident. Isaiah writes, “*It was the LORD’s will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer,*” (Isaiah 53:10). The Lord had the world’s good in mind. On Calvary, Christ’s triumphant “*It is finished*” communicated clearly that the death penalty that the world’s sin merited had been paid in full by another.

That’s one half of the exchange. The other half: “*so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.*” God, who because of Christ no longer charges the sins of the world against the world, credits the righteousness, the holiness, of Christ to the world. Christ’s righteousness for mankind’s sin is a great exchange indeed!

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

Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 0407583922.

Email him at paziebell@gmail.com

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

3 April WEDNESDAY	7 April 5 Lent	10 April WEDNESDAY
7.30pm OAK Vespers	8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC	7.30pm GRN Vespers
Wednesday, 3 April		
HYMNS: 175 66 779 48 v.3		
Sunday, 7 April		
READINGS: Isaiah 43:16-21; Philipians 3:4b-14; Luke 20:9-20		
HYMNS: 75 62 164 (840 68) 754		
Wednesday, 10 April		
HYMNS: 55 part 1 52 v.1-4 52 v.5-8 48 v.3		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, 3 April. 10.00am. Women’s Guild at Oakey. Opening Devotion: Jenny
Key Word: “Jesus.” Item of Interest: Something beginning with “L”