

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

18 March 2020

Bulletin for the 4<sup>th</sup> mid-week Lenten Service

**HYMNS:** 73 55 part 1 201 48 v.3

**PSALM:** I was glad when people told me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

Our feet have been standing inside your gates, O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who have been built like a city that has been firmly joined together, where the tribes, the tribes of the LORD, have been going up. This is a regulation for Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.

For thrones for judgment have been set there, the thrones of the family of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you have peace!

May there be peace inside your walls, and security in your fortresses!"

For the sake of my brothers and friends, let me say, "May there be peace in you!"

Because of the house of the LORD, our God, I shall be intent on your good.

Psalm 122

**COLLECT:** Lord Jesus, You bring light to those who dwell in darkness and make Your love known to them. Do not enter into judgment with Your servants, but strengthen us in the saving faith and guide us into the land of perfect peace where with the Father and the Holy Spirit You live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**SERMON:** Ephesians 6:12 Know Your Enemy

*"We are not wrestling against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against those who control this dark world, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms!"*

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**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Isaiah 52:7-10

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings the good news, who announces peace, who tells the good news of good things, who proclaims salvation and who tells Zion, "Your God is King!" <sup>8</sup> Listen! Your watchmen have raised their voices and are shouting together joyfully. For eye to eye they will see it when the LORD returns to Zion. <sup>9</sup> Be happy and shout joyfully together, ruins of Jerusalem! For the LORD has comforted His people. He has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup> The LORD has made bare His holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

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 4*

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So they took Jesus from Caiaphas to the governor's quarters. It was early in the morning. The Jews themselves did not go into the governor's quarters, to avoid becoming unclean, and to enable them to eat the Passover. So Pilate came outside to them, and asked, "What accusation are you bringing against this Man?"

They answered him, "If He were not a criminal, we would not have handed Him over to you."

Pilate therefore told them, "You take Him, and judge Him according to your Law!"

The Jews answered him, "We are not permitted to execute anyone."

This happened that the statement that Jesus had made might be fulfilled, when He indicated the kind of death He was going to die.<sup>1</sup>

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."<sup>2</sup>

Then Pilate went into the governor's quarters again and called for Jesus. He asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "Are you saying this of yourself, or have others told you about Me?"

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<sup>1</sup> John 18:28-32

<sup>2</sup> Luke 23:2

Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own people and the chief priests have handed You over to me. What have You done?"

Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If My kingdom be-longed to this world, My attendants would fight, to prevent Me from being handed over to the Jews. However, now My kingdom is not from here."

Therefore Pilate asked Him, "Then are You a king?"

Jesus answered, "You are correct in saying that I am a king. I have been born for this reason, and I have come into the world for this reason, that I may testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My voice."

Pilate asked Him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again, and told them, "I do not find any ground for complaint in Him."<sup>3</sup>

While the chief priests and elders were accusing Him, He did not answer at all. Then Pilate asked Him, "Do You not hear how much testimony they are bringing against You?"

However, Jesus made no reply to him, even about a single statement, so that the governor was very amazed.<sup>4</sup>

Pilate told the chief priests and the crowd, "I do not find this Man guilty at all." However, they kept insisting, "He stirs up the people by teaching all over Judea. He began in Galilee and has come here." When Pilate heard that, he asked if the Man was a Galilean. When he found out that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. 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. Herod asked Him many questions, but Jesus did not answer him at all. The chief priests and the scribes were standing there and accusing Him vehemently. Herod and his soldiers treated Jesus with contempt and mocked Him. They put a splendid garment on Him and sent Him back to Pilate. On that very day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other. For before this they had been enemies of each other.

Then Pilate called the chief priests, the rulers, and the people together. 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. No, neither has Herod. For he has sent Him back to us; and, as you can see, He has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore, I shall chastise Him and release Him."<sup>5</sup>

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. Pilate knew that the chief priests had handed Jesus over because they were jealous.<sup>6</sup>

Pilate asked them, "Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus, who is called 'Christ'?"<sup>7</sup>

The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus put to death.<sup>8</sup>

The governor asked them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?"<sup>9</sup>

The whole crowd then began to shout aloud: "Away with this Man! Release Barabbas for us!"<sup>10</sup>

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."<sup>11</sup>

Pilate spoke to them again, because he wanted to release Jesus.<sup>12</sup> He again asked them, "Therefore, what am I to do with the One whom you call 'the King of the Jews'?"

They shouted back, "Crucify Him!"

Pilate asked them, "Why? 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."<sup>13</sup>

P: Here ends the reading. *The congregation stands*

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<sup>3</sup> John 18:33-38

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 27:12-14

<sup>5</sup> Luke 23:4-16

<sup>6</sup> Matthew 27:15-16; Mark 15:6-10

<sup>7</sup> Matthew 27:17

<sup>8</sup> Mark 15:11

<sup>9</sup> Matthew 27:21

<sup>10</sup> Luke 23:18

<sup>11</sup> Matthew 27:19

<sup>12</sup> Luke 23:20

<sup>13</sup> Mark 15:12-14; Luke 23:22