

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

18 March 2021

Bulletin for the 5th mid-week Lenten Service

HYMNS: 49 66 177 48 v.3

PSALM: I have been waiting eagerly for the LORD, and He has bent down to me and heard my cry for help.

He has lifted me out of a desolate pit, out of the muddy clay. He has set my feet on a rock and made my steps secure.

He has put a **new song** in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many people will see it, be afraid and trust in the LORD.

Blessed is the person who has placed his trust in the LORD, and who has not turned to arrogant people or to those who turn aside to falsehood!

O LORD, my God, You have done many things, Your wonderful works and Your plans for us. No one can be compared to You. If I were to report and speak about them, they would be too many to recount.

You have not taken pleasure in sacrifice and offering. You have opened ears for Me. **You have not asked for a burnt offering or a sin-offering.**

Then I said: "Look! I have come. It has been written about Me in the scroll of the Book.

I delight to do **Your will, O My God**, and Your Teaching is inside My inner being."

I have announced the good news of righteousness in the great assembly. Look! I shall not keep my lips closed, O LORD. You Yourself know it.

I have not concealed Your righteousness inside my heart. I have spoken about Your faithfulness and Your salvation. I have not hidden Your mercy and Your truth from the great assembly.

You Yourself, O LORD, will not withhold Your compassion from me. Your mercy and Your truth will continually protect me.

For evils without number have surrounded me. My iniquities have overtaken me, so that I cannot see. They outnumber the hairs on my head, and my heart has failed me.

Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me! O LORD, come quickly to help me!

Let those who are trying to snatch away my life be disgraced and utterly

confounded! Let those who desire to harm me be driven back and be humiliated!

Let those who say to me, "Aha! Aha!" be horrified because of their shame!

Let all who are intent on You rejoice and be glad in You! Let those who love Your salvation constantly say, "May the LORD be magnified!"

However, I am afflicted and needy. May the LORD plan for me! You are my Help and my Deliverer. O my God, do not delay!

Psalm 40

COLLECT: Lord God, through Your Son you have made the heavens and the earth. Through Him You continue to rule over all things. Make us, Your chosen people, witnesses of Your power and heralds of Your glory to the praise of Your unfailing love; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERMON: John 12:23-36 Jesus' Significant Final Appearance

²³ Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone, but, if it dies, it produces much grain.

²⁵ "The person who loves his life loses it, and the person who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves Me, he should follow Me, and where I am there also My servant will be. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honour him. ²⁷ Now My soul is troubled, and what am I to say? 'Father, save Me from this hour!?' No! For this reason, I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify Your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven: "I both have glorified it and shall glorify it again."

²⁹ Therefore, the crowd that was standing there and heard it began to say that it had thundered. Others were saying, "An angel has spoken to Him."

³⁰ Jesus answered: "This voice has not come because of Me but because of you. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be cast out. ³² I, if I am lifted up from the earth, shall also draw all people to Myself."

³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death that He was going to die.

³⁴ The crowd answered Him, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains for ever. How, then, are You saying that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this 'Son of Man'?"

³⁵ Then Jesus told them, "The Light is still among you for a little while. Walk while you have the Light, that darkness may not overtake you! The person who

walks in the dark does not know where he is going. ³⁶ While you have the Light, believe in the Light that you may become children of light!"

After Jesus had said these things, He went away and hid from them.

Our 1st Readings for this Lenten Season will track the story of Joseph, which supplies so many parallels to the Passion of our Lord

1st Reading: Genesis 45:1-15

¹ Then Joseph could no longer hold back his emotions before all who were standing near him and called out, "Make everyone leave my presence!"

There was no one else standing with **Joseph** when he **told his brothers who he was**. ² He wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him and the household of Pharaoh heard him. ³ Then Joseph told his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?"

However, his brothers could not answer him because they were terrified at his presence. ⁴ Joseph told his brothers, "Please come closer to me!"

Therefore, they went closer. He said: "I am your brother Joseph, whom you **sold into Egypt**. ⁵ Now, however, do not be sad or angry with yourselves for selling me here! For it was to save lives that God has sent me ahead of you.

⁶ For two years now there has been a famine in the land, and there are five more years when there will be no ploughing or harvesting. ⁷ God has sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on the earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. ⁸ So now, it has not been you who have sent me here, but God. He has also made me a father to Pharaoh, master over his entire household and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Go up to my father quickly and tell him, 'This is what your son Joseph has said: "God has made me master of all Egypt. Come down to me immediately! ¹⁰ You shall live in the region of Goshen, and you yourself, your children and your grandchildren will be near me with your flocks, your herds and everything else that you have! ¹¹ I shall provide for you there. For there will be five more years of famine. Otherwise you, your family and all who belong to you will lose your property.'" ¹² Look! Your own eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin can see that it is my mouth that is speaking to you. ¹³ Tell my father about all the honour given to me in Egypt and about everything that you have seen and bring my father down here quickly!"

¹⁴ Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept

on his neck. ¹⁵ Joseph kissed all his brothers and wept over them. After that, his brothers talked with him.

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 5

Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him.¹ The soldiers took Him away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium), and called together the whole company of soldiers. They took His clothes off and put a scarlet robe on Him. They twisted together a crown of thorns, placed it on His head, and put a stick in His right hand, knelt in front of Him, and made fun of Him, saying: “Welcome, King of the Jews!” They spat on Him, took the stick, and began to beat Him on the head.²

Pilate went outside again and told them, “Look! I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no cause for complaint in Him.”

Jesus came outside, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate told them, “Look at the Man!”

Therefore when the chief priests and the attendants saw Him, they shouted, “Crucify, crucify!”

Pilate told them, “Take Him yourselves and crucify Him! For I do not find any basis for a charge against Him.”

The Jews answered him, “We have a Law, and according to the Law He ought to die, because He has made Himself the Son of God.”

When Pilate heard them say that, he was more afraid. He went into the governor’s quarters again and asked Jesus, “From where are You?”

However, Jesus did not give him an answer. Therefore Pilate asked Him, “Are You refusing to speak to me? Do You not realise that I have authority to free You and authority to crucify You?”

Jesus answered him, “You would not have any authority at all over Me if it had not been given to you from above. That is why the man who has handed Me over to you has the greater sin.” From then on Pilate kept trying to release Jesus, but the Jews shouted out, “If you let this Man go, you are no friend of

¹ John 19:1

² Matthew 27:28-30; Mark 15:16-19; John 19:2-3

Caesar. Everyone who makes himself a king is speaking against Caesar.” Therefore, when Pilate heard these words, he took Jesus outside, and sat down in the judge’s seat at a place called “the Stone Pavement,” or “Gabbatha” in Aramaic. It was the day of the Preparation of the Passover, and about six in the morning. Pilate told the Jews, “Look at your King!” Therefore they shouted, “Away with Him! Away with Him! Crucify Him!” Pilate asked them, “Am I to crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.”³ When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that a riot was breaking out instead, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd. He said, “I am innocent of this Man’s blood. You will see to it yourselves.” All the people answered, “Let His blood be on us and on our children!”⁴ Then Pilate decided that what they demanded should be done. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, but he had Jesus scourged, and handed Him over to be crucified.⁵ After the soldiers had mocked Him, they took off the purple robe and put His own clothes on Him. Then they led Him out to crucify Him.⁶ Jesus went out, carrying His own cross, to the place that was called “the Place of the Skull,” which is called “Golgotha” in Aramaic.⁷ A certain man, Simon from Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was going past as he was coming in from the country, and they forced him to carry Jesus’ cross.⁸ A large crowd of the people followed Him. The women in the crowd were mourning and weeping for Him. Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for Me! Rather, weep for yourselves and for your children! For indeed the days are coming when people will say, ‘Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that have not borne children, and the breasts that have not suckled!’ Then people will begin to say to the mountains: ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills: ‘Cover us!’ For, if they do these things to the green tree, what will be done to the dry one?” Two other men, who were criminals,

³ John 19:4-15

⁴ Matthew 27:24-25

⁵ Matthew 27:26; Mark 15:15; Luke 23:24-25

⁶ Matthew 27:31; Mark 15:20

⁷ Matthew 27:31; Mark 15:20; Luke 23:26; John 19:17

⁸ Mark 15:21

were also led out to be executed with Him.⁹

When they had come to a place called “Golgotha,” which means “The Place of a Skull,” they offered Him a drink of wine mixed with gall, but, when He had tasted it, He refused to drink it.¹⁰

It was the third hour when they crucified Him.¹¹ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them! For they do not know what they are doing.”¹² They crucified Him with two other men, one on each side, with Jesus in the middle.¹³ (*The Scripture was then fulfilled which says,*) * “He was numbered with transgressors.”¹⁴

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His outer garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier, and also the undergarment. The undergarment was without a seam, woven from the top in one piece. Therefore they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but let us throw dice for it, to decide who will get it!”

This happened in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled that says: “They divided My outer garments among them, and they cast lots for My clothing.”

So that is what the soldiers did.¹⁵

Pilate also wrote a notice and put it on the cross. It read: “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”

Therefore many Jews read this notice, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city. The notice had been written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek.

Therefore the high priests of the Jews told Pilate, “Do not write: ‘The King of the Jews,’ but: ‘He said, “I am the King of the Jews”!’”

Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”¹⁶

M: Here ends the reading.

The congregation stands.

⁹ Luke 23:27-32

¹⁰ Matthew 27:33-34; Mark 15:23

¹¹ Mark 15:25

¹² Luke 23:34

¹³ Matthew 27:38; Mark 15:27; John:19:18

¹⁴ *Not actual word of Scripture. Luke 22:37 reads, “*For I tell you that this passage of Scripture must be fulfilled in Me, ‘He was numbered with transgressors.’*”

¹⁵ Matthew 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34; John 19:23-24

¹⁶ Matthew 27:37; Mark 15:26; Luke 23:38; John 19:19-22