

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

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Bulletin for the 3rd Lenten Service

HYMNS: 61 78 70 48 v.3

PSALM: How long, O LORD? Will You forget me for ever? How long will You hide Your face from me?

How long must I put anxieties in my soul and have torment in my heart day after day? How long will my enemy triumph over me?

Look at me! Answer me, O LORD, my God! Make my eyes bright, that I may not sleep in death, and that my enemy may not say, "I have conquered him," and that my oppressors may not rejoice because I am staggering.

Nevertheless, I trust Your mercy. Let my heart shout for joy over Your salvation!

Let me sing to the LORD! For He has been good to me.

Psalm 11

COLLECT: God of love and faithfulness, You showed Your favour to Your people by sending Your one and only Son to be our Saviour. Help us to trust in Him as our gracious Redeemer and so enjoy the peace He has come to bring, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SERMON: Mark 12:28-37 Two Very Significant Questions

One of the scribes came to Him. When he heard them arguing and saw that Jesus had been answering them well, he asked Him, "Which Commandment is the first of them all?"

²⁹ Jesus answered, "The first one is: 'Hear, Israel, the Lord, our God, the Lord is one, ³⁰ and you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength!' ³¹ The second one is this: 'You shall love your

neighbour as yourself!’ There is no other Commandment greater than these.”

³² The scribe said to Him, “Well said, Teacher! You have told the truth in saying that He is one and that there is no other besides Him. ³³ Loving Him with all one’s heart, with all one’s understanding and with all one’s strength and loving one’s neighbour as oneself is also more than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

³⁴ When Jesus saw that he had answered sensibly, He told him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”

After that, no one dared to ask Him another question.

³⁵ While Jesus was teaching in the Temple, He asked, “How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? ³⁶ David himself said by the Holy Spirit, ‘The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand until I put Your enemies under Your feet!”’ ³⁷ David himself calls Him ‘Lord’. Then how is He his son?”

The large crowd used to enjoy listening to Him.

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 41:9-16, 25-44

⁹ Then the chief cup-bearer spoke up to Pharaoh. He said: “Today I must mention my faults. ¹⁰ When Pharaoh was angry with his officials, he placed me in custody at the house of the captain of the bodyguards, together with the chief baker. ¹¹ He and I each had dreams in the same night. Each of us had a dream that matched its own interpretation. ¹² A young Hebrew was there with us, a slave belonging to the captain of the bodyguards. We told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us. He told each of us the interpretation of his dream. ¹³ Our dreams turned out as he had interpreted them: Pharaoh restored me to my position and hanged the other man.”

¹⁴ Then Pharaoh sent some men to call Joseph, and they quickly brought him out of the dungeon. He shaved, changed his clothes and came to Pharaoh.

¹⁵ Pharaoh told Joseph: “I have had a dream, but no one can interpret it. However, I have heard that, when you hear a dream, you can interpret it.”

¹⁶ Joseph answered Pharaoh: “I cannot do it. However, God will give Pharaoh an answer that indicates his welfare.”

²⁵ Joseph told Pharaoh: “The dreams of Pharaoh mean the same. God has told Pharaoh what He is about to do. ²⁶ The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads are seven years. The dreams are the same. ²⁷ The seven skinny, ugly cows coming up after them are seven years, and the seven empty heads of grain scorched by the east wind will be seven years of famine. ²⁸ It is just as I have told Pharaoh. God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do. ²⁹ Look! Seven years are coming when there will be great plenty throughout the land of Egypt. ³⁰ Seven years of famine will follow them, during which a famine will exhaust the land, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt. ³¹ The plenty will no longer be remembered in the land because of the famine that follows. For it will be very severe. ³² The reason why the dream has been given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will make it happen soon.

³³ “Now therefore, Pharaoh should choose an intelligent and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt! ³⁴ Pharaoh should do this and should appoint overseers over the land and collect one-fifth of what the land of Egypt produces during the seven plentiful years! ³⁵ They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and, under Pharaoh’s authority, heap up grain for food in the cities and store it there! ³⁶ This food should be a reserve supply for the land for the seven years of famine that will occur in the land of Egypt, that the country may not be ruined by the famine!”

³⁷ Pharaoh and all his officials approved the advice. ³⁸ Pharaoh asked his officials, “Can we find anyone like this, a man who has the Spirit of God in him?”

³⁹ Then Pharaoh told Joseph: “Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one as perceptive and wise as you are. ⁴⁰ **You shall be in charge of my palace**, and all my people shall obey your instructions! Only in regard to the throne shall I be superior to you.”

⁴¹ Pharaoh told Joseph, “See! **I have hereby put you in charge of the entire land of Egypt.**”

⁴² Pharaoh removed his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph’s finger. He dressed him in fine linen and put a golden chain around his neck.

⁴³ He had Joseph ride in his second chariot of state. People called out ahead of him, “Bow down!” Pharaoh **put Joseph in charge of the entire land of Egypt.**

⁴⁴ Pharaoh told Joseph, “Although I am Pharaoh, no one throughout the land of Egypt will raise his hand or his foot without your permission.”

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 3

Just then, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Therefore Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to Him, went out and asked them, “For whom are you looking?”

They answered Him, “Jesus of Nazareth.”

Jesus told them, “I am He.”

Judas, who was betraying Him, was also standing with them. When Jesus told them, “I am He,” they went backwards, and fell to the ground.

Therefore Jesus asked them again, “For whom are you looking?”

They said, “Jesus of Nazareth.”

Jesus answered, “I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if I am the One for whom you are looking, let these men go!”

This happened in order that the statement that He had made might be fulfilled: “I have not lost any of those whom You have given Me.”

The man who was betraying Him had given them a signal. He told them, “The One whom I kiss is the One. Arrest Him, and lead Him away securely!”

When he came, he immediately went up to Jesus and said, “Rabbi,” and kissed Him.

However, Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

Then the men came forward, took hold of Jesus, and arrested Him.

When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they asked, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?” Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus.

Then Jesus told him, “Put your sword back in its place! For all who take the sword will die by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot call on My Father, so that He will at once provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?” Then He touched the servant’s ear and healed him.

At that time Jesus asked the crowd, “Have you come out to arrest Me with swords and clubs as if I were a robber? Every day I have been sitting and teaching in the temple, and you have not arrested Me. However, all this has happened so that the writings of the prophets may be fulfilled.”

Then all His disciples deserted Him and ran away. A certain young man was also following Him wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They tried to take hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.¹

Then the troop of soldiers, the commander, and the Jewish assistants arrested Jesus, and tied Him up. They took Him to Annas first. For he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was the high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews, “It is better that one Man should die for the people.”²

Then those who had arrested Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas, the chief priest, where the scribes and the elders had been called together.³

Simon Peter was following Jesus, and so was another disciple. That other disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the high priest’s courtyard. However, Peter was standing outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the girl watching the door, and brought Peter inside. When the men had lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard, and had sat down together, Peter sat down among them.⁴

The chief priests and the whole Jewish council kept on looking for false testimony against Jesus in order to put Him to death. However, they did not find any, although many false witnesses came forward. Later two men came forward, and said, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and build it in three days.’”⁵ However, even on this point their evidence did not agree.

Then the chief priest stood up in the middle and asked Jesus, “Are You not answering at all? What is it that these men are testifying against You?”

However, Jesus remained silent and did not answer at all. Again the chief priest asked Him, “Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?”

¹ Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-52; Luke 22:47-54; John 18:1-11

² John 18:12-14

³ Matthew 26:57

⁴ John 18:15-16; Luke 22:55

⁵ Matthew 26:59-61

Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One, and coming with the clouds of heaven.”

Then the chief priest tore his clothes, and said, “Why do we need witnesses any more? You have heard the blasphemy. What is your opinion?” They all condemned Him, saying that He deserved to die. Then some men began to spit at Him, cover His face, strike Him with their fists, and say to Him, “Prophesy!” The attendants also gave Him blows.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the chief priest came, and, when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You were also with the Man from Nazareth, this Jesus!”

However, he denied it, saying: “I neither know nor understand what you are saying.” He went outside to the forecourt, and a rooster crowed. When the servant girl saw him, she again began to tell those who were standing around, “This is one of them!”

However, he denied it again. After a little while, those who were standing near began to say to Peter again, “In fact you are one of them. For you are a Galilean.”

However, he began to curse and swear: “I do not know this Man, about whom you are talking.”

Just then, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. 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.”

Then he went outside and wept bitterly.⁶

When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people came to a decision against Jesus, to put Him to death. They bound Him, led Him away, and handed Him over to Pilate, the governor. When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus had been condemned, he was filled with remorse and took the thirty silver coins back to the chief priests and elders. He said, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.”

However, they said, “What is that to us? You should see to it!”

So he threw down the pieces of silver into the temple and departed. Then he went away and hanged himself. The chief priests took the pieces of silver and

⁶ Matthew 26:30-35; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:60-62; John 18:15-18, 25-27

said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are the price of blood.”

They made the decision to use them to buy the Potter’s Field, as a burial place for foreigners. Therefore that field has been called “the Field of Blood” to this day. Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, “I took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of Him who had been valued, whom those of the children of Israel had valued, and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord had commanded me.”⁷

M: Here ends the reading.

The congregation stands.

⁷ Matthew 27:1-10