

DARLING DOWNS PARISH OF THE AELC
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BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA

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Bulletin for the 1st Lenten Service

HYMNS: 305 310 54 48 v.3

PSALM: Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your mercy! According to Your great compassion blot out my rebellious acts!

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and declare me clean from my sin!

For I acknowledge my rebellious acts, and my sin is always before me.

I have sinned against You, You only, and I have done what is evil in Your sight, **that**

You may be just when You speak, that You may be blameless when You judge.

Indeed, I was born in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.

Indeed, You desire truth in the inner parts, and in the secret being You are teaching me wisdom.

Purify me from sin with hyssop and I shall be clean! Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow!

Cause me to hear joy and gladness! Let the bones that You have crushed rejoice!

Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities!

Create in me **a clean heart**, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit inside me!

Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me!

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and support me with a willing spirit!

I shall teach Your ways to those who are rebellious, and sinners will return to You.

Psalm 51:1-13

COLLECT: Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

SERMON: Genesis 30:22-24 The Genesis of Joseph

God also remembered Rachel. God listened to her and opened her womb. ²³ She became pregnant and gave birth to a son and said, "God has taken away my disgrace." ²⁴ She named him "Joseph," and said, "May the LORD add to me another son!"

1st Reading: Joel 2:12-19

¹² “Nevertheless, even now,” declares the LORD, “return to Me with all your hearts, with fasting, with weeping and with mourning! ¹³ Tear your hearts and not your clothes!”

Return to the LORD, your God! For He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in mercy and relents from sending calamity. ¹⁴ Who knows whether He may turn back, relent and leave a blessing behind Him, a grain-offering and a drink-offering for the LORD, your God? ¹⁵ Blow a trumpet in Zion! Announce a holy fast! Call an assembly! ¹⁶ Gather the people! Consecrate the congregation! Assemble the aged people! Gather the children, even the breast-fed infants! Let the bridegroom leave his bedroom, and let the bride leave her bridal chamber! ¹⁷ Let the priests, who minister to the LORD, weep between the Temple-porch and the altar! Let them say, “Look compassionately on Your people, O LORD! Do not make Your inheritance a disgrace and a byword among the nations! Why should people ask among the nations, ‘Where is their God?’”

¹⁸ Then the LORD became deeply devoted to His land and took pity on His people. ¹⁹ The LORD answered His people: “Look! I am sending you grain, new wine and olive-oil. They will satisfy you. I shall not make you an object of scorn among the nations any longer.”

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 1

The Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is called “the Passover,” was approaching. Jesus told His disciples, “You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.”

Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the chief priest, whose name was Caiaphas. They plotted to arrest Jesus in an underhanded way and kill Him. However, they said, “Not during the festival! Or there may be a riot among the people.”

Then Satan entered Judas, who was called “Iscaiot,” and who was numbered among the Twelve. Judas went to the chief priests and the captains and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus to them. They were glad, and

agreed to give him money. He consented, and kept looking for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.¹

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?”

He sent two of His disciples and told them: “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him! Where he goes inside, tell the owner: ‘The Teacher asks, “Where is My guest-room, in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’” Then he will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there!”

The disciples left, went into the city, and found things just as Jesus had told them; and they prepared the Passover. When the hour had come, He and the apostles reclined at the table. He told them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I shall certainly not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”²

Then a dispute arose among them about which of them was considered to be the greatest. Jesus told them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called ‘benefactors.’ However, you should not be like that! Rather, the one who is the greatest among you should become like the youngest, and the one who rules should be like the one who serves! For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? However, I am among you as the One who serves. However, you are those who have continued with Me in My temptations. I also confer on you a kingdom, as My Father has conferred one on Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom; and that you may sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”³

Before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knew His hour had come to leave this world and go to the Father. He had loved His own who were in the world, and He loved them completely. The evening meal was being served, and the Devil had already put the idea of betraying Jesus into the mind of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. Jesus knew that the Father had put everything into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going back to God. Jesus rose from

¹ Matt. 26:1-5; Mk 14:1-2; Luke 22:1-6

² Matt. 26:17-20; Mk 14:12-17; Luke 22:7-16

³ Luke 22:24-30

the meal, laid aside His outer garments, took a towel, and tied it around His waist. Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel that He had wrapped around Him. So He came to Simon Peter. Peter asked Him, "Lord, are You going to wash my feet?"

Jesus answered him, "You do not understand now what I am doing, but later you will know."

Peter told Him. "You will assuredly never wash my feet."

Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Simon Peter told Him, "Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head!"

Jesus told him, "The person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet. He is completely clean. You are clean, but not all of you."

For He knew who would betray Him. That was why He said, "Not all of you are clean."

After He had washed their feet and put on His outer garments, He reclined at the table again. He asked them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me 'Teacher' and 'Lord', and you are right, because I am. Therefore if I, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Truly, truly I tell you, a slave is not greater than his master is, and one who is sent is not greater than the one who has sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.⁴

Then He took a cup and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you, from now on I shall certainly not drink what comes from the vine until the kingdom of God comes."⁵

M: Here ends the reading.

The congregation stands.

⁴ John 13:1-17

⁵ Luke 22:17-18