

DARLING DOWNS PARISH OF THE AELC
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Bulletin for the 3rd mid-week Lenten Service

HYMNS: 53 298 71 48 v.3

PSALM: Who, then, is the man who fears the LORD? He will teach him in the way that he should choose.

He himself will dwell in prosperity, and his descendants will inherit the land.

The intimate advice of the LORD is for those who fear Him, so that He causes them to know His Covenant.

My eyes are constantly on the LORD. For He will pull my feet out of the snare.

Turn to me and be gracious to me! For I am lonely and afflicted.

The troubles of my heart have multiplied. Bring me out of my afflictions!

Look on my affliction and my trouble and forgive all my sins!

Look at my enemies! For they are many and hate me with violent antipathy.

Protect my life and rescue me! Let me not **be put to shame!** For I have been taking refuge in You.

May innocence and honesty protect me! For I have been waiting for You.

Redeem Israel, O God, from all his troubles!

Psalm 25:12-22

COLLECT: Lord God, our Help and Deliverer, we thank You for lifting us out of the desolate pit and muddy clay, and for setting our feet upon the Rock, our Lord Jesus Christ, who carried out Your will and rose to live and rule with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

SERMON: Genesis 39:1-21 A Miracle of Miracles

1st Reading: Genesis 39:1–21

¹ Joseph was taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian, an official of Pharaoh and captain of the bodyguards, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there. ² However, the LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man. He was in the home of his Egyptian master. ³ His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD used to give him success in everything that he undertook. ⁴ Joseph's master was kind to him, and Joseph became his servant. His master put him in charge of his household and entrusted everything that he owned to him. ⁵ After the Egyptian appointed Joseph over his household and over everything that he owned, the LORD blessed his household because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything that his master had, both in the household and in the field. ⁶ He left everything that he had in Joseph's charge. Because he had him, he did not concern himself with any-

thing except the food that he was eating.

Joseph was well built and good-looking.⁷ After these things, his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"

⁸ He refused. He told his master's wife: "Look! Because I am here, my master does not concern himself with anything in the house. He has entrusted everything that he has to me. ⁹ In this house my master is no greater than I am. He has not withheld anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How then could I do this very wicked thing and sin against God?"

¹⁰ Although she kept talking to Joseph day after day, he refused her requests to lie beside her and even to be with her. ¹¹ One day he went into the house to do his work, when none of the household servants was there in the house. ¹² She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" However, he left his cloak in her hand, ran away and went outside. ¹³ When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run outside, ¹⁴ she called her household servants. She told them: "Look! He has brought us a Hebrew man to play around with us. He came to me to sleep with me, but I screamed. ¹⁵ As soon as he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me, ran away and went outside."

¹⁶ She kept Joseph's cloak with her until his master came home. ¹⁷ Then she told him a similar story. She said: "The Hebrew slave whom you brought to us came to me to play around with me. ¹⁸ However, when I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran outside."

¹⁹ When his master heard the story that his wife told him, "This is what your slave did to me," he burned with anger. ²⁰ Joseph's master arrested him and put him in prison, in the place where the king's prisoners were held. So, Joseph was there in the prison. ²¹ Nevertheless, the LORD was with Joseph and extended His mercy to him. He made the superintendent of the prison kind to 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 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

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 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.

⁵ Matthew 26:59-61

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

⁷ Matthew 27:1-10