

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

23 March 2022

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

**HYMNS:** 85 313 61 48 v.3

**PSALM:** O LORD, listen to my prayer! Open Your ears to my pleas for favour! Answer me in Your faithfulness and in Your righteousness!

Do not bring Your servant into judgment! For in Your sight there is no one alive who is righteous.

For the enemy has been pursuing my life. He has crushed my life to the ground. He has been making me live in dark places, like those who have died long ago.

Therefore my spirit inside me has become faint. My heart inside me has been overcome with numbness.

I remember the days of long ago. I have been meditating on all that You have done. I am meditating on what Your hands have done.

I have been spreading out my hands to You. My soul is thirsting for You like a parched land.

Answer me quickly, O LORD! My spirit has been wasting away. Do not hide Your face from me, or I shall be like those who are going down into the pit!

Cause me to hear about Your mercy in the morning! For I trust in You. Cause me to know the way on which I should go! For I have been lifting up my soul to You.

Rescue me from my enemies, O LORD! I have come to You to conceal myself away.

Teach me to do what You desire! For You are my God. May Your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

For Your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life! In Your righteousness, bring my soul out of trouble!

In Your mercy You will silence my enemies, and destroy all who are hostile toward me! For I am Your servant.

Psalm 143

**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:** Genesis 41:9-16, 25-44 Wait for the Lord

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1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Genesis 41:9-16, 25-44

<sup>9</sup> Then the chief cup-bearer spoke up to Pharaoh. He said: "Today I must mention my faults. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup> He and I each had dreams in the same night. Each of us had a dream that matched its own interpretation. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> Our dreams turned out as he had interpreted them: Pharaoh restored me to my position and hanged the other man.”

<sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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.”

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

<sup>25</sup> Joseph told Pharaoh: “The dreams of Pharaoh mean the same. God has told Pharaoh what He is about to do. <sup>26</sup> The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads are seven years. The dreams are the same. <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> It is just as I have told Pharaoh. God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do. <sup>29</sup> Look! Seven years are coming when there will be great plenty throughout the land of Egypt. <sup>30</sup> 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. <sup>31</sup> The plenty will no longer be remembered in the land because of the famine that follows. For it will be very severe. <sup>32</sup> 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.

<sup>33</sup> “Now therefore, Pharaoh should choose an intelligent and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt! <sup>34</sup> 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! <sup>35</sup> 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! <sup>36</sup> 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!”

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

<sup>39</sup> Then Pharaoh told Joseph: “Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one as perceptive and wise as you are. <sup>40</sup> 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.”

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

<sup>42</sup> 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. <sup>43</sup> 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.

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

## 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?"

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 belonged 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

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

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

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

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

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>

M: Here ends the reading.

*The congregation stands.*

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<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