

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

22 March 2023

Bulletin for the 5th mid-week Lenten Service

HYMNS: 55 part 1 70 228 48 v.3

PSALM: Vindicate me, O God, and plead my case against a nation that is not devout!
Rescue me from the deceitful and unruly man!

For You are the God who gives me refuge. Why have You been rejecting me? Why
must I walk around dressed in mourning attire because of the oppression of the
enemy?

Send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me! Let them bring me to Your
holy mountain and to Your dwelling-place!

Then let me go to the altar of God, to God, my Joy and my Delight, that I may give
thanks to You on the lyre, O God, my God!

Why are you downcast, my soul, and why are you restless inside me? Hope in God!
For I shall again praise Him, my Saviour and my God.

Psalm 43

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 What Does Jesus Want Us to Remember from His
Significant Final Appearance? - Tuesday of Holy Week

1st Reading: Isaiah 30:8-18

Come now! Write it on a tablet in their presence and inscribe it on a scroll, so that it
may be there in the future as a permanent witness! ⁹ For they are a rebellious people,
deceitful children, children who have refused to listen to the instruction of the LORD.
¹⁰ They have been telling the seers, "You shall not see!" and those who have visions,
"You shall not see visions for us! Speak smooth words to us! Have prophetic visions
that are illusions! ¹¹ Leave the road! Turn aside from the path! Stop speaking in our
presence about the Holy One of Israel!" ¹² Therefore this is what the Holy One of
Israel has said: "Because you have rejected this Word, have trusted in oppression and
crookedness and have relied on them, ¹³ therefore this sin will become for you like a
gap in a high wall, which is about to collapse and bulges out. It will crash quite

suddenly. ¹⁴ It will break as a potter's jar does when it is crushed so ruthlessly that no potsherd can be found in its fragments to use in carrying fire away from a hearth, or in skimming water out of a cistern."

¹⁵ For this is what the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, has said: "You will be saved by turning back and being patient. You will be strong by keeping silent and by trusting." However, you have refused. ¹⁶ You have been saying, "No! Rather, we shall flee on horses." Therefore you will flee. You have been saying, "We shall ride on fast horses." Therefore those who pursue you will prove to be fast. ¹⁷ One thousand will flee when one person threatens them. You will flee when five persons threaten you, until you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a flag on a hill.

¹⁸ Therefore the LORD will wait to be gracious to you. Therefore He will rise to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a just God. Blessed are all who wait for 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

¹ John 19:1

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

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 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

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

criminals, 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.

What Does Jesus Want Us to Remember from His Significant Final Appearance? - Tuesday of Holy Week Sermon for the 5th mid-week Lenten Service 2023 John 12:23-36

Grace and peace to you all from our risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The text for our sermon tonight is John 12:23-36: **Jesus answered them,**

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

“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.

Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us through Your truth, Your Word is truth. Amen.

Dear friends in Christ,

Our text tonight takes us to the end of the day on Tuesday of Holy Week.

This section of Scripture is significant because it marks the final public appearance by Jesus before His arrest and crucifixion. It’s the last time He and

the crowds in Jerusalem will exchange words before He is arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane and placed on trial.

What does Jesus want us to remember from His significant final appearance?

Let's focus on several of Jesus' statements in this significant last appearance in public.

First, He states, "**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.**"

Jesus is clearly speaking about His coming crucifixion, death, and burial. Jesus' dying would have its effect on all who follow Him.

On several earlier occasions, Jesus had stated that *His time had not yet come*. But now, His time has come, and it's all happening according to His timetable, which is the timetable of the Father. All was now ready for Him to endure that which He had come into the world to endure - to accomplish that for which the Father had sent Him into this world.

Jesus would be glorified - but not in the way some were expecting. He would not bring about a revolution and establish an earthly kingdom where He would rule with subjects bowing down to Him. Instead, He would let others triumph over Him and bow down His head in death on a cross. There He would voluntarily offer His life as payment in full for all sin and all evil. The way to being glorified for Jesus was by way of crucifixion.

He would not reign from a palace. He would hang from a cross.

He would not lie on a luxurious bed of ivory. He would lie on the cold stone of a tomb.

He would not be wrapped in the finest fabrics. He would be wrapped in burial cloths.

And it is through death that He will produce "**much grain**" indeed. Jesus compares His own death and burial to that of a grain of wheat bearing much fruit after it has been dead and buried in the ground. It is a paradox to be sure: life comes by way of death.

The fruit, the life that Jesus is talking about, is ours. Life comes for us by way of Christ's death. By His death, Jesus has destroyed death's power to harm us. He has destroyed sin's power to condemn us. Death is no longer the end. The grave is not the final resting place. As Christ said one chapter earlier

in the Gospel of John, *“I am the Resurrection and the Life. The person who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will assuredly never die”* (John 11:25-26).

In this final public appearance of our Saviour before His arrest, we also see a great deal of transparency and vulnerability. He is truly human. As the appointed time draws closer, He states, **“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.”** These words call to mind the words He will pray to the Father in approximately forty-eight hours in the Garden of Gethsemane, *“My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from Me”* (Matt. 26:39). So also in our text, Jesus speculates, **“what am I to say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour!’?”**

Jesus knew the horror of what was ahead for Him. It would include being beaten, whipped, spat upon, mocked, and suffering excruciating pain as He hung on the cross. You and I can only imagine the pain, anguish, suffering, and shame He would endure.

But nothing would compare to the *isolation* of being abandoned by His own Father as He would hang there on the cross. So troubled would He be that He would cry out for all to hear, *“My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?”* (Matt. 27:46). Sadly, you and I know the answer to that question. Jesus was forsaken because He was bearing our sin, which should have forever separated *us* from God. Is it any wonder that His soul is troubled at this point?

Yet, as He did in the Garden of Gethsemane, He also does here. He will not let His human emotions override the will of the Father, the reason He came into this world, and the mission He has come to accomplish. In the Garden of Gethsemane, He was quick to add to His request to let this cup pass from Him with the words, *“Nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will!”* (Matt. 26:39). And so also here, He adds the words, **“For this reason, I have come to this hour.”**

Yes, for this very purpose, Jesus has come into the world, and for this very purpose, He has come to this specific point in time. As He said Himself, *“the Son of Man has not come to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many”* (Matt. 20:28). He has come to die so that you might live, not just here but eternally in the presence of God. For this reason, He has come into the world.

And what would be Christ’s final words of His last public appearance before His arrest and crucifixion? He says, “**While you have the Light, believe in the Light that you may become children of light!**” He issues one final appeal to trust and believe in Him. Even as He is facing all of the personal anxiety, His concern is not for Himself but that all who are within hearing distance may believe in Him, trust in Him, and have confidence in Him as their Saviour. He and the Father are united in not wanting any to perish but rather that everyone should come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved.¹⁷

As a church and as individual members of our Lord’s Church, our message to those walking in the darkness of sin and unbelief is identical to the message Christ delivered in His final public appearance before His arrest: “**While you have the Light, believe in the Light that you may become children of light!**” Who knows how many more opportunities anyone outside of faith in Jesus Christ will have to “**believe in the Light**” before the darkness of death closes in, and it is too late? I know that you join me in praying that God will use us to bring the light of Jesus Christ to those living in the darkness of sin and unbelief. May He use each of us, our actions and words, as His instruments of light and life in this world.

And so concludes Christ’s final public appearance before His arrest - an appearance in which He announces that His time has come, that He will be buried, and that He will produce much fruit. An appearance in which He speaks about His fear and trepidation concerning the horrific events He will endure in the next few days. An appearance in which He appeals one last time for faith on the part of His hearers. It was a significant final public appearance indeed! Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

26 March, Sunday 5 Lent	29 March Mid-week LENTEN SERVICE
8.30am OAK HC 9.00am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.15am GRN HC 9.00am MARBURG LR	7.30pm TMBA Vespers

¹⁷ 1 Timothy 2:4