

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

29 March 2023

Bulletin for the 6th Lenten Service

HYMNS: 177 65 232 48 v.3

PSALM: The LORD is my Light and my Salvation. Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the Fortress of my life. Of whom should I be afraid?

When evildoers came against me to devour my flesh, my oppressors and my enemies stumbled and fell.

If an army were to pitch camp against me, my heart would not be afraid. If a war were to break out against me, in this I would be confident.

One thing I have asked of the LORD. That I shall seek, that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to reflect in His Temple.

For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble. He will conceal me under the cover of His tent. He will set me high on a rock.

Now my head will be high above my enemies all around me. Therefore, I shall offer sacrifices in His tent with shouts of joy. I shall sing and make music to praise the LORD.

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud! Be gracious to me and answer me!

When You said, "Be intent on My face!" my heart said to You, "I shall be intent on Your face, O LORD."

Do not hide Your face from me! Do not turn Your servant away in anger! You have been my Help. Do not cast me off or abandon me, O God of my salvation!

Psalm 27:1-9

COLLECT: O LORD, spare us from the folly of wickedness and the pursuit of evil.

Make us rejoice in Your saving acts that we who have been redeemed by Your Son may abound in works of faith, hope, and love: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

SERMON: Luke 22:1-6 Judas's Significant Deal was Far More Significant Than He Could Ever Imagine – Wednesday of Holy Week

1st Reading: Amos 8:9-10

⁹ "On that day," the Lord GOD declares, "I shall make the sun go down at noon and I shall darken the earth in broad daylight. ¹⁰ I shall turn your feasts into a time of mourning and all your songs into a funeral song. I shall put sackcloth on every waist, and make a bald patch on every head. I shall make it like mourning for an only child, and the result of it like a bitter day.

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 6

The people stood there watching. Those who were going past kept ridiculing Him, shaking their heads, and saying, “Ha! You who are tearing down the temple and building it in three days, come down from the cross, and save Yourself!”

In the same way the chief priests and the scribes kept mocking Him among themselves, saying, “He saved others. He cannot save Himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross, in order that we may see and believe!” “He trusts in God. Let God rescue Him now if He wants Him! For He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”¹

The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him wine-vinegar. They said, “If you are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!”² In the same way even the robbers who had been crucified with Him kept insulting Him.³ One of the criminals who hung there was blaspheming Him: “Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!”

However, the other criminal rebuked him. He said, “Do you not even fear God? For you are under the same condemnation. We are also being punished justly. For we are getting what we deserve for what we have done. However, this Man has done nothing wrong.”

Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!”

Jesus told him, “Truly, I tell you, today you will be with Me in paradise.”⁴

Jesus’ mother, His mother’s sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene were standing near the cross of Jesus.

Therefore, when Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Woman, there is your son.” Then He said to the disciple, “There is your mother.”

From that time on, this disciple took her into his own home.⁵

At noon darkness came over the whole land and lasted until three in the afternoon.

¹ Matthew 27:39-43; Mark 15:29-32; Luke 23:35

² Luke 23:36-37

³ Matthew 27:44; Mark 15:32

⁴ Luke 23:39-43

⁵ John 19:25-27

About three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "This man is calling Elijah."⁶

After this, knowing that everything had now been finished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine had been placed there.⁷ Immediately one of them ran, took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to Him to drink. The others said, "Let Him alone! Let us see if Elijah is coming to save Him!"⁸

When Jesus had taken the sour wine, He said, "It is finished."⁹ Then Jesus cried out aloud, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." After He had said this, He breathed His last.¹⁰

Just then the curtain in the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom. The earth shook and the rocks were split. The tombs were opened and many bodies of the saints who had died were raised. They came out of the tombs, after Jesus had risen, went into the Holy City, and appeared to many people.

When the captain and those who were watching Jesus with him saw the earthquake and the other things that happened, they were terrified. They said, "Truly, this Man was the Son of God!"¹¹

When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what had happened, they beat their breasts and went away.

However, all those who knew Him, including the women who had followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.¹² Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.¹³

Since it was the Day of Preparation, to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the Sabbath, and because that Sabbath day was an important one, the Jews asked Pilate that the men's legs should be broken, and the bodies taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and those of the

⁶ Matthew 27:45-47; Mark 15:33-35; Luke 23:44

⁷ John 19:28-29;

⁸ Matthew 27:48-49; Mark 15:36

⁹ John 19:30

¹⁰ Matthew 27:50; Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46

¹¹ Matthew 27:51-54; Mark 15:38-39; Luke 23:47

¹² Luke 23:48-49

¹³ Matthew 27:56; Mark 15:40-41

other man who had been crucified with Jesus.

However, when they came to Jesus and saw that He was dead already, they did not break His legs; but one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. He who has seen it has been testifying about it. His testimony is true, and he knows he is telling the truth, in order that you also may believe.

For these things happened in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "None of His bones shall be broken!" Again another Scripture passage says: "They will look at the One whom they have pierced."¹⁴

When evening had already come, Joseph from Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who himself also was waiting for the kingdom of God, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their decision and action, and who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he was afraid of the Jews, dared to go in to Pilate and ask for the body of Jesus.¹⁵

Pilate wondered whether Jesus had already died. So he summoned the centurion, and asked him if Jesus was already dead. When he had found from the centurion that this was so, Pilate granted the body to Joseph. Joseph bought linen and took Him down.¹⁶

Nicodemus also came, the man who had come to Jesus by night at the beginning. He brought a mixture of about thirty kilograms of myrrh and aloes.

Therefore they took Jesus' body and wrapped it in strips of linen with the spices according to the Jewish burial-custom. There was a garden at the place where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb, in which no one had yet been laid. Joseph laid the body in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. After he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, he went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.¹⁷ They observed the tomb and how His body was laid. When they went back they prepared spices and perfumes. Then they rested on the Sabbath according to the Commandment.¹⁸

The next day, the one after the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees met with Pilate. They said, "Sir, we remember how that deceiver said while He

¹⁴ John 19:31-37

¹⁵ Matthew 27:57; Mark 15:42-43; Luke 23:50-51; John 19:38

¹⁶ Matthew 27:59; Mark 15:44-46a; Luke 23:53

¹⁷ Matthew 27:60-61; Mark 15:46-47; Luke 23:53; John 19:39-41

¹⁸ Luke 23:55b-56

was still alive, ‘After three days I shall rise.’ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, to keep His disciples from coming and stealing Him, and telling the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead’! Then the latter deception will be worse than the former.”

Pilate told them, “You have a guard. Go and make it as secure as you know how!” So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.¹⁹

P: Here ends the reading.

The congregation stands.

Judas’s Significant Deal was Far More Significant Than He Could Ever Imagine – Wednesday of Holy Week Sermon for the 6th mid-week Lenten Service 2023

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

The text for our sermon tonight is Luke 22:1-6: **The Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is called “the Passover,” was approaching. ² The Chief Priests and the scribes were searching for a way to put Him to death. For they were afraid of the people. ³ Then Satan entered Judas, who was called “Iscariot,” and who was numbered among the Twelve. ⁴ Judas went to the Chief Priests and the captains and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus to them. ⁵ They were glad and agreed to give him money. ⁶ He consented and kept looking for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.**

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

Dear friends in Christ,

Our text is a sad and sombre account of Judas Iscariot making a significant deal. It was a deal to betray Jesus, but Judas’s significant deal was far more significant than he could ever imagine.

¹⁹ Matthew 27:62-66

Our text takes place on Wednesday of Holy Week. By now, the chief priests and scribes wanted in the worst way to arrest Jesus and kill Him because He was a threat to the power and prestige of these religious authorities. He was a threat to their control of the people. He had made them look bad publicly on several occasions, and while they had tried to trap Him in discussion on more than one occasion, yet Jesus bested them again and again by asking them questions they could not or would not answer.

In the mind of the chief priests and scribes, Jesus was dangerous. He was dangerous in that He did not seem to be concerned about doing what they considered to be work on the Sabbath Day. He associated and even ate with all the wrong people: tax collectors and other public sinners. In their eyes, He was not looking and acting the way the Messiah should look and act. He had become far too popular with the people. They witnessed what had happened on Palm Sunday when Jesus entered Jerusalem accompanied by crowds yelling, “*Blessed is the King who is coming in the name of the Lord! In heaven peace, and glory in the highest heavens!*” (Luke 19:38). So great was the outpouring of support for Jesus that the Pharisees watching it concluded, “*Look! The world has gone after Him*” (John 12:19).

And it was the popularity of Jesus with the crowds that had caused the chief priests and scribes to hold off on arresting and killing Him. They feared a violent backlash from the crowds if they tried to take Jesus away while He was out in the public. They needed help with their evil scheme - a way to get Jesus quietly and discreetly.

So they rejoiced when Judas came to them and gave them exactly what they wanted and needed. “**Satan entered Judas,**” who conferred with the chief priests and the temple guard on “**how he might betray Jesus to them.**” It would actually take place in about twenty-four hours. On the very next evening, Maundy Thursday, Judas would leave the upper room and go to the chief priests. He would lead the temple guard to Jesus as Jesus and the disciples were in the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives, away from the crowds of people. And in the ultimate act of betrayal, Judas would walk up to Jesus and identify Him to the temple guard with a kiss.

The fact is, this was not the first time that Judas had betrayed Jesus - or the other disciples, for that matter. In John 12, when Jesus is eating at the house of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, Mary anoints the feet of Jesus with expensive ointment. Judas objects that this was a waste of this expensive ointment. He argued that the oil could have been sold and the money given to the poor. But John tells us that Judas was not concerned about the poor. He was the treasurer for the disciples and used to steal from the treasury.²⁰ He wanted more money in the treasury so that he could have more money at his disposal. He had already made a significant deal with his own conscience to justify his continued betrayal of Jesus and the other disciples.

While Judas's name has become synonymous with betrayal, Judas is far from the only one who has betrayed Jesus. In fact, we all can identify with Judas. We just have a different price. It isn't thirty pieces of silver, but it may be a momentary pleasure we feel when we see that image on the computer screen. It may be the self-importance we feel when we're the centre of attention as we gossip about a friend. It may be the lack of sorrow and empathy and maybe even secret feelings of joy that we feel as someone else falters and we feel superior. Daily we betray Jesus, not with a kiss, but with our thoughts, words, and deeds that are self-centred and self-serving. And this from people who believe in and confess Jesus. We've each made significant deals with our consciences just to let a little slide. Judas had his price, and so do all of us.

Although he didn't know it, the betrayal by Judas and the events that would follow would be used by God to bring about what Judas could never imagine. It would not be thirty pieces of silver, but rather the holy precious blood and the innocent suffering and death of Jesus Christ that would be the payment for all sin, for all people, for all time.

Christ would not betray you. He would not betray the will of His Father but would voluntarily shed His blood and offer His life as payment in full for your sin. And just as He predicted on more than one occasion, He would rise again on the third day.

²⁰ John 12:1-6

No, Jesus will never, ever betray you. He promises to be with you always even to the end of the age. He promises never to leave you or forsake you. Even today, He is interceding for you, speaking on your behalf in the presence of the Father. And just as He promised, He will return on the Last Day and will raise you and all believers and grant to you and all believers never-ending life in His presence.

The significant deal that Judas made with the religious leaders of the day set into motion the events that God would use to change everything between God and man. Satan, Judas, and the religious leaders would use this deal with an evil intent. God would use it in accordance with His love and compassion for you and all people. It was all in accord with His plan, all in accord with His timetable, all in accord with His will. It all gets set into motion with this significant deal. Amen.

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

2 April, Sunday Palm Sunday	MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICES
8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA HC 9.00am GRN LR 10.45am AUB HC 9.00am MARBURG LR	Wednesday 5 April: LOWOOD 7.00pm HC Thursday 6 April: OAKEY 7.30pm HC