

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

28 February 2024

Bulletin for the 3<sup>rd</sup> mid-week Lenten Service

**HYMNS:** 61 58 Part 1 320 48 v.3

**PSALM:** Bless the LORD, O my soul and, all my inmost being, bless His holy name!  
Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all His benefits!

He forgives all your iniquities. He heals all your diseases.

He redeems your life from the pit. He crowns you with mercy and compassion.

He satisfies what adorns you with good things, so that you renew your youth like the eagle.

The LORD carries out acts of righteousness and of justice for all who are oppressed.

He has made known His Ways to Moses, His deeds to the people of Israel.

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to become angry and abounding in mercy.

He will not always accuse and will not keep on being angry for ever.

He has not treated us as our sins deserve and has not paid us back according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him.

As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has had compassion on those who fear Him.

He certainly knows what He has fashioned. He remembers that we are dust.

A human being's days are like grass. He flourishes like a flower of the field.

For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place no longer recognises it.

However, the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness belongs to children's children, to those who keep His Covenant and to those who remember to carry out His Directions.

The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over everything.

Bless the LORD, you His angels, who are mighty and strong, who carry out His Word, and who listen to His spoken Word!

Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, you His servants, who carry out His will!

Bless the LORD, all His works, in all the places of His dominion! Bless the LORD, O my soul!

Psalm 103

**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:** Psalm 41:4 I have Sinned

*I myself have been saying: "O LORD, be gracious to me! Heal my soul! For I have been sinning against You."*

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**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Isaiah 52:13-53:12

<sup>13</sup> "Look! My Servant will be successful. He will be high, be lifted up and be highly exalted. <sup>14</sup> As there have been many who have been horrified because of You, — since His appearance has been more disfigured than any other man and His form more than any other human being, — <sup>15</sup> so He will sprinkle many nations. Kings will shut their mouths because of Him. For they will see what they had not been told and will understand what they had not heard."

<sup>53:1</sup> Who has believed our Message? To whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup> He grew up before Him like a young shoot, like a root out of dry ground. He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him. He had nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him. <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom people hide their faces, He was despised, and we thought of Him as nothing. <sup>4</sup> Surely, He has taken on Himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows. Yet we considered Him to be wounded, struck down by God and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> However, He was pierced for our rebellious acts. He was bruised for our wrongdoings. The chastisement that brought us peace was on Him, and through His wounds we have been healed. <sup>6</sup> We have all gone astray, like sheep. Each one of us has turned to his own way, and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. <sup>7</sup> Although He was oppressed and afflicted, He did not open His mouth. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter and, as a ewe is silent before those who shear off her wool, so He did not open His mouth. <sup>8</sup> He was taken away through oppression and without justice. As for His generation, who considered that He was cut off from the land of the living? Because of the rebellion of my people He was struck down. <sup>9</sup> He assigned His grave with wicked people but was with a rich man in His death, although He had done nothing violent, and there was no deceit in His mouth. <sup>10</sup> Nevertheless, it was the will of the LORD to crush Him with suffering. When You make His life a sacrifice for guilt, He will see His offspring. He will have a long life, and the will of the LORD will be successful in His hand. <sup>11</sup> Because of the anguish of His soul, He will see and be satisfied. "Through His knowledge, My righteous Servant will justify many and bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, I shall divide Him a portion among great people, and He

will divide the plunder with strong people, because He poured out His life to death and was numbered with wrongdoers. Nevertheless, He has carried the sin of many people and intercedes for the wrongdoers.”

P This is the Word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ Drawn from All Four Gospels**

*Portions selected from Matthew 26:15-27:66, Mark 14:12-15:47, Luke 22:7-23:56, and John 13:1-19:42, arranged chronologically to tell the story of the arrest, trials, suffering, crucifixion, death, and burial of our Lord Jesus.*

*Events occur on Thursday and Friday, 13-14 Nisan (April 2-3), 33AD, in and around Jerusalem.*

#### **Teaching on the Way to the Garden of Gethsemane (continued)**

<sup>16:1</sup> “I have spoken these things to you that you may not fall away. <sup>2</sup> People will put you out of the synagogues. Yes, the time is coming when anyone who murders you will think that he is offering a service to God. <sup>3</sup> They will do these things because they have not known the Father or Me. <sup>4</sup> However, I have told you these things so that, when their time comes, you may remember them, because I have told you about them. I did not tell you these things at first, because I was with you. <sup>5</sup> However, now I am going away to Him who has sent Me, and none of you is asking Me, ‘Where are You going?’ <sup>6</sup> However, because I have told you these things, sorrow has filled your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, I tell you the truth, it is good for you that I am going away. For, if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you. However, if I go, I shall send Him to you. <sup>8</sup> When He comes, He will convict the world about sin, righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> about sin, because they do not believe in Me, <sup>10</sup> about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you do not see Me any longer, <sup>11</sup> about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

<sup>12</sup> “I still have many things to tell you, but you cannot endure them now. <sup>13</sup> However, when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will lead you into the whole truth. For He will not speak on His own authority but will speak whatever He hears and will tell you what is coming. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify Me, because He will take from what is Mine and will tell it to you. <sup>15</sup> All things that the Father has are Mine. That is why I have said, ‘He takes from what is Mine and will tell it to you.’

<sup>16</sup> “A little while and you do not see Me any longer and, again, a little while, and you will see Me.”

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, some of His disciples asked one another, “What does this mean that He is telling us, ‘A little while and you do not see Me and, again, a little while, and you will see Me’ and ‘Because I am going to the Father’?”

<sup>18</sup> Therefore, they kept asking, “What does this mean that He is saying, ‘A little while’? We do not understand what He is saying.”

<sup>19</sup> Jesus knew that they wanted to ask Him. He said to them, “Are you trying to find out among yourselves about this thing that I said, ‘A little while and you do not see Me and, again, a little while and you will see Me’?” <sup>20</sup> Truly, truly, I tell you that you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned to joy. <sup>21</sup> When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come. However, when she has given birth to her child, she does not remember her anguish any longer, because of her joy that a human being has been born into the world. <sup>22</sup> Therefore, you also have sorrow now, but I shall see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you. <sup>23</sup> In that day you will not ask Me any questions. Truly, truly, I tell you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. <sup>24</sup> Until now you have not asked for anything in My name. Ask and you will receive, that your joy may be complete! <sup>25</sup> I have been telling you these things in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I shall no longer speak to you in figures of speech but shall report to you plainly about the Father. <sup>26</sup> In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall ask the Father on your behalf. <sup>27</sup> For the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and because you have believed that I have come forth from God. <sup>28</sup> I have come forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I am leaving the world and am going to the Father.”

<sup>29</sup> His disciples said, “Look! Now You are speaking plainly and are not speaking any dark saying. <sup>30</sup> Now we know that You know all things and do not need to have anyone ask You questions. By this we believe that You have come forth from God.”

<sup>31</sup> Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? <sup>32</sup> Look! The hour is coming and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and you will leave Me alone. Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. <sup>33</sup> I have spoken these things to you that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have distress. Nevertheless, have courage! I have overcome the world.”

<sup>17:1</sup> Jesus spoke these Words, looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son may glorify You! <sup>2</sup> For You have given Him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom You have given Him. <sup>3</sup> This is eternal life, to know You, the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. <sup>4</sup> I have glorified You on the earth by finishing the work that You have given Me to do. <sup>5</sup> Now, Father, glorify Me at Your side with the glory that I had with You before the world existed!

<sup>6</sup> “I have made Your name known to the people whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your Word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that all things that You have given Me come from You, <sup>8</sup> because I have given them the Words that You have given Me, and they have received them and learned the truth that I have come from You and have believed that You have sent Me. <sup>9</sup> I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me. For they are Yours. <sup>10</sup> All that are Mine are Yours, and what are Yours are Mine, and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name that You have given Me, that they may be one, as We are one! <sup>12</sup> While I have been with them, I have kept them in Your name, which You have given Me. I have watched over them, and none of them has been lost except the one who will be lost, that the Scripture may be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup> Now I am coming to You and I say these things while I am in the world, that they may have a full measure of My joy in them. <sup>14</sup> I have given them Your Word, but the world has hated them, because they do not belong to the world, as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup> I do not ask You to take them out of the world but to keep them from the Evil One. <sup>16</sup> They do not belong to the world, as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup> Make them holy by the truth! Your Word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As You have sent Me into the world, I have also sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> For their sakes I set Myself apart as holy, that they also may be set apart as holy by the truth.

<sup>20</sup> “I am not praying for these only but also for those who believe in Me through their Word, <sup>21</sup> that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I am in You. Let them also be in Us, that the world may believe that You have sent Me! <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that You have given Me, that they may be one, as We are one. <sup>23</sup> I am in them, and You are in Me. Let them be brought to complete unity that the world may know that You have sent Me and that You have loved them as You have loved Me! <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that those also whom You have given to Me may be with Me where I am, that they may see My glory, which You have given to Me, because You have loved Me before the foundation of the world. <sup>25</sup> Righteous Father, the world has not known You, but I have known You, and these have come to know that You have sent Me. <sup>26</sup> I have made Your name known to them and shall make it known, that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them and that I may be in them.”

M: Here ends the reading.

*The congregation stands.*

**I HAVE SINNED**  
**Sermon for the 3<sup>rd</sup> mid-week Lenten Service 2024**  
**Psalm 41:4**

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

The text for our sermon tonight is Psalm 41:4: **I myself have been saying: “O LORD, be gracious to me! Heal my soul! For I have been sinning against You.”**

Dear friends in Christ,

In these midweek sermons, we have been emphasising two things: (1) that the Psalms *speak about Jesus*<sup>1</sup> and (2) that because the Psalms speak about Jesus, they therefore *speak also about you and me*. The Apostle Paul writes how our “*bodies are members of Christ*” (1 Corinthians 6:15). Believers are one with Christ - we have been joined to Christ through our baptism. We have become one with Jesus, just as He and His Father are one.<sup>2</sup>

Our permanent and eternal connection to Christ is an essential tool for reading the Psalms. Still, if it is true that the Psalms speak about Jesus, we must admit that the Psalms *sometimes say strange, unbecoming, and seemingly untrue things about Him*. Psalm 41 is an example, especially where it is written, **“O LORD, be gracious to me! Heal my soul! For I have been sinning against You.”** Surely, these words cannot apply to Jesus because ***He has never, and will never, sin against His God and Father - Jesus is sinless***. That is absolutely true. To believe and teach that Jesus was a sinner would be to blaspheme Almighty God and confess that Jesus is not the Saviour from sin. It would be to disagree with the Word of God that says Jesus, our High Priest, has “*in every respect... been tempted as we are, yet without sin*” (Hebrew 4:15). A sinful Jesus could be no Saviour.

But here’s the thing: To be sure, our Lord Jesus Christ truly had, and still has, absolutely no sin of His own. It is written, “*In Him, there is no sin*” (1 John 3:5), and “*He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His*

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<sup>1</sup> John 5:39

<sup>2</sup> John 10:30

mouth” (1 Peter 2:22). Yet just because Jesus committed no sin, that does not mean He had no sin!

Let me clarify this for you: When the Scriptures say that Jesus had “*been tempted as we are, yet without sin,*” they mean “yet without sin OF HIS OWN.” Where the Scriptures again say, “*In Him there is no sin*” (1 John 3:5), they do NOT mean that there was no sin ON Him. John the Baptist was faithful and true when He said concerning Jesus, “*Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*” (John 1:29). The Greek word for “takes away” means “to lift from the ground, to lift with a view of carrying.” This is what Jesus does. He picks up and carries sin away.

Where did the sin come from, that which was given to Jesus? It came from you and me. “*The LORD has laid on Him,*” said Isaiah, “*the iniquity of us all*” (Isaiah 53:6). As you heard in last week’s sermon, “God the Father laid onto His perfect Son every corrupt thing about us.” Jesus held Himself personally responsible for our guilt; He made Himself to be the guilty one so that we could be “*blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish*” (Philippians 2:15). That is why the Scriptures, speaking through the Apostle Paul says God “*made Him (Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God*” (2 Corinthians 5:21).” Jesus took upon Himself our status and standing before God’s righteous court and was declared guilty of all the sin and evil in this world.

Five hundred years ago, Martin Luther preached a similar thing, except in a far more able and compelling way. He said, “*When the merciful Father saw that we were being oppressed through the Law, that we were being held under a curse, and that we could not be liberated from it by anything, He sent His Son into the world, heaped all the sins of men upon Him, and said to Him: Be Peter the denier; Paul the persecutor, blasphemer, and assaulter; David the adulterer; the sinner who ate the apple in Paradise; the thief on the cross. In short, be the person of all men, the one who has committed the sins of all men. And see to it that You pay and make satisfaction for them*” (Lectures on Galatians [3:13], Luther’s Works 26:280).

David prayed in Psalm 41, “**I myself have been saying: “O LORD, be gracious to me! Heal my soul! For I have been sinning against You.”** The LORD heard his prayer and laid all of David’s sin upon His Son, the “*Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*” (John 1:29).

You can pray the same prayer that David prayed, and every word of that prayer will be true: **“O LORD, be gracious to me! Heal my soul! For I have been sinning against You.”** As Jesus did for David, so He has done for you: He has heard your prayer and listened to your plea for grace. God the heavenly Father has laid all your sin upon His Son, your Lord, right next to David’s sin. It would NOT be wrong for you to think of your Lord Jesus as saying to you at your Baptism, *“From now on, I am going to be you, and you are going to be Me. Switch with Me so that you may take My place while I have yours.”*

Because the Psalms are about Jesus, Psalm 41 also gives voice to the prayer of Jesus: **“O LORD, be gracious to me! Heal my soul! For I have been sinning against You.”** Because of the load that Jesus shouldered for our salvation, the divine Law could look at Jesus, *“Jesus only”* (Matthew 17:8), and say concerning Him, in the words of Martin Luther: *“I find Him a sinner, who takes upon Himself the sins of all men. I do not see any other sins than those in Him. Therefore let Him die on the cross!” And so it attacks Him and kills Him. By this deed the whole world is purged and expiated [released] from all sins, and thus it is set free from death and from every evil”* (Luther’s Works 26:280).

In Psalm 41, Jesus appealed to His Father for our sake, carrying our burdens and being our sin.<sup>3</sup> His Father heard Him because of the reverence with which He submitted His plea<sup>4</sup> and because His Son became *“obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”*<sup>9</sup> *That is why God also has very highly exalted Him and given Him the name that is above every other name,*<sup>10</sup> *that at the name of Jesus everyone in heaven and on earth and under the earth may kneel,*<sup>11</sup> *and that everyone may confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”* (Philippians 2:8-11). Amen.

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

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<sup>3</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:21

<sup>4</sup> Hebrews 5:7