



Journeying to the Cross

Second Sunday in Lent

February 28, 2021

Lament over Jerusalem

*Jesus desired for people to repent, not so that they would be saved from tragedies,
but so that they might bear fruit.*

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Prelude

"Adora Te Devote"

- Plainsong

Announcements

Call to Worship

**Return to God with all your heart, the source of grace and mercy;
Come seek the tender faithfulness of God.**

**I will take your heart of stone and place a heart within you
a heart of compassion and love. (Refrain)**

Confession & Forgiveness

In this holy season of Lent, we are mindful that we are tempted on our journeys and on our own, our only destination is death. In our journey we choose trails of deceit, self-centeredness and blindness to our neighbor in need. We confess our sin that leads us away and separates us from God and one another...

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may journey with you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

Christ journeys with us and through Christ's life, death, and resurrection we are forgiven. Siblings in Christ, let us journey together, forgiven and freed for the life we know in Christ. **Amen.**

Opening Song

Heart of Worship

When the music fades all is stripped away
And I simply come
Longing just to bring something that's of worth
That will bless Your heart

I'll bring You more than a song for a song in itself
Is not what You have required
You search much deeper within through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

Chorus

*I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You, all about You Jesus
I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You, all about You Jesus*

King of endless worth no one could express
How much You deserve
Though I'm weak and poor all I have is Yours
Ev'ry single breath

I'll bring You more than a song for a song in itself
Is not what You have required
You search much deeper within through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart *Chorus*

Prayer of the Day

Merciful God,
You long for your people to bear the fruits of mercy and repentance. Tend and guide our growth into a faithful nation who serves you and the people you love, for the sake of Jesus. **Amen.**

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching & song

Many terrible tragedies fell upon the Jews. While some believed it was their own fault for their lack of repentance, Jesus had a different message. Repent, not to escape tragedy, but that they might bear good fruit.

Invitation to the Word

You set your face toward Jerusalem for our sake,
come to us now in the proclamation of your word.

Scripture Reading

Luke 13:1-9, 31-35

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³²He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

You give us endless chances to show your love in our lives, although we do not always take them. Open our hearts to see the world with the same compassion that you do, and treat others with the grace you have given us.

God of mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for peace in the Holy Land and for reconciliation between its peoples. Soften hearts that have hardened and forgive those who have succumbed to hatred.

God of mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Even amidst the curses of pollution, endangerment and exploitation, this earth and its creatures continue to endure and thrive. Make us willing and dedicated partners committed to the renewal of our environment.

God of mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Disease and disaster are not punishments for sin, but rather reflections of a broken and imperfect world. Strengthen all who suffer adversity of any kind and who need a special measure of your healing, especially...

God of mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We remember Linus Pauling and all scientists who use their gifts for the benefit of people and the advancement of peace upon the planet. Inspire us through his witness to discern where our own gifts are most needed.

God of mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Other petitions may be offered.

You hear all your children's prayers and gather the lost into your loving arms. Teach us to put our trust in you, and in our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Offering Prayer

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. As our congregation gathers food and necessities for the Action Center during this Lenten season, turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Sharing God's Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

With Christ's face set towards Jerusalem, may you be blessed with God's faithfulness, mercy and love for the journey ahead of us. **Amen.**

Sending Song

Lord Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Red ELW 545

**Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us,
trav'ling through this wilderness.**

Thanks we give and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound.

Ever faithful, ever faithful
to your truth may we be found.

Savior, when your love shall call us
from our struggling pilgrim way,
let no fear of death appall us,
glad your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
reign with you in endless day.

Sending

Go in peace as you continue your journey with Christ.

Postlude

"Jesus Lover Of My Soul"

- Shackley

