

TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH
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THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
March 15 & 16, 2025
5:30PM & 8:00AM

AS WE GATHER

How's your faith? Is it firm, steadfast, and strong? Or do you find that it seems to be growing weak, uncertain, or even in danger of disappearing at times? As we follow our Lord in this Lenten season, leading up to the distressing events of Holy Week, we are warned today that the same opposition, rejection, and betrayal faced by prophets like Jeremiah, and even Jesus, will also face us as His followers. What did He mean when He said, "You will be hated by all for My name's sake"? (Luke 21:17). But rather than a dire prediction, Jesus said, "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:11–12). When challenges arise and temptations overwhelm, we are reminded to remember and observe examples of faith, such as the apostle Paul in his many struggles and even our Lord Himself whose faith and confidence in His Father's gracious design made Him endure "the cross, despising the shame" with the prospect of His certain victory and eternal placement at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2). That certainty is ours. Faith hangs on to the promise "I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown" (Revelation 3:11). Or as Paul says, "Therefore, my brothers, . . . my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord" (Phil. 4:1).

PRELUDE / ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN "How Firm a Foundation" *LSB 728*, sts. 1-5

(Please stand)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 4:1, 3*

Pastor: Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!

People: Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

Pastor: Know that the LORD has set apart the godly for Himself;

People: **the LORD hears when I call to Him.**

CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: As we eagerly await our final transformation as citizens of heaven on the day of resurrection, let us above all pursue steadfastness of faith, relying on the power and promises of God our heavenly Father.

People: **O almighty God, our Father in heaven, we come to You in our weakness seeking and imploring the strength of Your grace and blessing. Our sins wear us down. Make us desire all that You promise and to firmly believe in Your forgiveness and help now and for all our days. We ask this solely for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Good Shepherd.**

Pastor: Even amid the challenges and hardships of life in faith in this world, as citizens of the kingdom of God we have the assurance of grace abounding throughout our days. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

INTROIT *Psalm 74:1–3; antiphon: Psalm 69:9*

People: **For zeal for Your house has consumed me,
and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.**

Pastor: O God, why do You cast us off forever?

Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture?

Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old, which You have redeemed to be the tribe of Your heritage!

Remember Mount Zion, where You have dwelt.

Direct Your steps to the perpetual ruins;

the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary!

People: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**For zeal for Your house has consumed me,
and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.**

KYRIE

C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, as false prophets and teachers have arisen among Your people in all ages, give us such devotion to the truth of Your Word that we may stand firm in steadfast faith all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

(Please sit)**FIRST READING *Jeremiah 26:8–15*** (Jeremiah threatened with death)

⁸When Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You shall die! ⁹Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant?’” And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

¹⁰When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king’s house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD.

¹¹Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, “This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with

your own ears.”

¹²Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, “The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. ¹³Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you. ¹⁴But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you.

¹⁵Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 4

P. ¹Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!
You have given me relief when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

C. ²**O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?
How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?**

P. ³But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself;
the LORD hears when I call to him.

C. ⁴**Be angry, and do not sin;
ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent.**

P. ⁵Offer right sacrifices,
and put your trust in the LORD.

C. ⁶**There are many who say, "Who will show us some good?
Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!"**

P. ⁷You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.

C. ⁸**In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.**

**All: Glory be to the father and to the Son
And to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and will be forever. Amen**

SECOND READING Philippians 3:17–4:1

¹⁷Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our

(Our citizenship is in heaven.)
lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

¹Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

VERSE *Luke 13:35*

Pastor: Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see Me until you say,

People: **“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 13:31–35* (Lament over Jerusalem)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

People: **Glory be to You, O Lord.**

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.”

³²And he said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course.

³³Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.’ ³⁴O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills

the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! ³⁵Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

(Please sit)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY “O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe” *LSB 666, sts. 1-4*

SERMON “JERUSALEM REJECTS ITS RIGHTFUL LEADER”

The Rev. Peter Gueldner

HYMN OF PRAISE “Sing Praise to the God of Israel” *LSB 936, sts. 1-4*

(Please stand)

APOSTLES' CREED

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Please sit)

TITHES AND OFFERING

(8:00 ONLY – “What Wondrous Love Is This” ~Trinity Handbells)

(Please stand)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Almighty God, we give You thanks for Your gift and creation of faith in our hearts and minds. By this faith, we greatly rejoice in the power of Your Word and Spirit that gives us strength and confidence to face all the challenges we encounter. We live out that faith in praise of Your goodness and mercy and in love towards all who are in need of Your help and salvation. We ask You to hear our prayers and grant us Your help. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: For Your holy church throughout the world, all Christians redeemed by the blood of Christ, inspire firm and steadfast faith in Your truth that we all may remain faithful in the face of any and every challenge that would seek to cause us to fall. Preserve us and help us counter all false teachings that seek to contradict Your truth. Save us from all temptations of the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh that we may live with integrity and in peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Give to all pastors, teachers, and all who serve in Your church Your wisdom and grace that they be instruments of Your mercy to all. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Bless all missionaries and faithful servants of our international fellowship of confessional Lutheran churches throughout all nations, granting them success in their ministries and safety, especially in challenging circumstances. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Inspire in our nation justice, honor, and peace. Grant health and wisdom to all who bear office in our land and help them to serve this people according to Your gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: By Your Word and Spirit grant healing and comfort to all who are in sorrow, sickness, or any adversity. Be with all those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on all to whom death draws near. Give steadfastness of faith to all who endure any and every challenge to living according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Remembering all who have served You and have gone before us, now resting from their labors, we ask You to keep us in fellowship with them and with all Your saints and bring us at last to our heavenly home. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Bless we the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

(Please sit)

HYMN **“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”** LSB 423, sts. 1-3

*** * * TO GOD BE THE GLORY * * ***

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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