

King of Glory Lutheran Church  
March 12/13, 2022  
Year C: Lent 2: Luke 13:31-35  
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### ***Luke 13:31-35***

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup> He 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. <sup>33</sup> Yet 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.’ <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, 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! <sup>35</sup> See, 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.’”

### ***Psalm 27***

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? <sup>2</sup>When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh— my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall. <sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident. <sup>4</sup>One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord. <sup>7</sup>Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! <sup>8</sup>“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, Lord, do I seek. <sup>9</sup>Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation! <sup>10</sup>If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up. <sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. <sup>12</sup>Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence. <sup>13</sup>I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. <sup>14</sup>Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

When was the last time you complained about something? A few minutes ago, an hour ago, a day ago?

I complain a lot. Sometimes I complain out loud. More often I complain to myself.

If I'm on the road I complain about construction and traffic. If I'm at home I wonder why there is always laundry to do. And this weekend, why do we have to lose an hour when I'd really prefer to gain one. You get my drift.

The Merriam Webster dictionary defines a complaint as an expression of grief, pain or dissatisfaction. Complaining is something people do from time to time. We are unhappy with someone or something and we wish it could be fixed.

Well today in our gospel reading perhaps you might have thought you heard Jesus complaining. "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!"

Some Bibles label this part of Luke's gospel, "Jesus laments over Jerusalem." So is this Jesus complaining or is it a lament? And what is a lament anyway? That is not a word we use everyday.

Again, with some help from the Merriam Webster dictionary, a lament is an expression of sorrow, mourning or regret. In our community of faith a lament is a cry to God for something that should not be. It is more than a complaint. It is a cry from our hearts to God.

I might complain about traffic but I lament the suffering and death of people caught in war in Ukraine.

Today Jesus laments over Jerusalem. Jesus is aware of the world as it is and the world as it should be. Because the world is not as God created it to be.

"Jerusalem, 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!"

In Jesus' lament we hear sadness and heartache. Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem. He knows where he is going and what will happen there. He knows that he is going to the cross.

But even knowing what will happen in Jerusalem, knowing that people are caught in webs of power and greed and fear, Jesus offers a powerful image of compassion for this city,

this people. He offers a prayer, a cry to God. And he does so knowing that he will be rejected and killed in that very place.

“How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!”

In this season of Lent we are reminded of Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem, to suffering and to death. And in this season of Lent, we hear a lament from Jesus. Jesus cries out to God for Jerusalem, for the world, for all that is not as it should be.

In this season of Lent we are invited to pray and fast and give. We are invited to repent of words and actions we regret that have hurt others and ourselves. And we are invited to share our laments with God.

If you were going to share a lament today, what would it be?

Because all is not as it should be. Loved ones get sick and die. Relationships are broken and difficult to mend. Children go hungry. People are killed and displaced by war.

And so we lament. And Jesus laments with us.

We don’t have to keep these laments to ourselves. It is ok to cry out to God because the world is not as it should be. We hope for something better, we hope for healing, we hope for compassion, we hope for peace. And so we cry to God, our God of hope and healing, compassion and peace.

God hears our cries and so that we would know that God feels our pain and knows suffering God sent Jesus to us. Jesus knows pain and suffering and does not hide or turn away.

Today he is warned by some Pharisees that Herod wants to kill him. “He 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.”’”

Jesus has work to do, even as he knows where it will lead him. With his presence and his words, Jesus challenges those who abuse power, those who live in fear, and those who reject God’s word. He speaks and heals and is unafraid of religious, political or economic authorities.

We see a glimpse of the world as it should be when we watch Jesus at work healing, when we listen to him offering forgiveness and peace, when we experience his compassion and mercy for those in need.

Jesus does his work among us and through us knowing that God's people are all too often foolish and stubborn. Thinking that we know what is best. Allowing greed and power to turn us away from God. Living by fear and judgement instead of grace and love.

And yet Jesus desires to gather all people together, to nurture and sustain. While he laments the brokenness of Jerusalem and of humanity, he offers hope and a vision of life together with God.

As we gather around God's Word and the Lord's Table today we see a glimpse of the world as it should be. Each one of us gathered together in God's embrace and love, surrounded by the communion of saints that have come before and will come after. In Word and Sacrament we are connected by God's promises for us and given gifts that will sustain us on our journey.

And we see the new world Jesus is bringing in every time one person cares for another, when the hungry are fed, when the lonely are visited, when children are loved, when the stranger is welcomed into a community, when those who are treated as invisible are made visible.

For us today it can be a struggle to trust, be faithful and have hope when we are confronted with greed and power, violence and fear, suffering and grief.

And yet, as we journey together through this Lenten season, Jesus calls us to follow him. Calls us to stand with him without fear. Gathered close to this one who will not be silenced, will not hide, will not be stopped from sharing the love of God with all people.

We see Jesus' boldness and courage this day as he goes on, doing his work, despite the danger that surrounds him. And doing so Jesus shows us what we are to be about in this world, a world that is not always safe or fair or easy to live in.

Jesus' wish for Jerusalem is his wish for us as well. This place Jerusalem, where people live life each day as we do. People who struggle with faith just as we do. People who long for new life just as we do.

As you offer your own laments to God this day, know that your cries are heard, know that you are not alone, know that you are loved.

Today Jesus gathers us close, holding our joys and our sorrows together, and he will never let go. May we follow his example, live with courage and hope, and hold on to Him and one another, together in love.

Amen.