



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY March 17 & BEYOND”

"You WANT Jesus to tell you what He sees in you"



The Gospel reading for this coming Sunday, March 17, which (besides being the traditional St Patrick's day, but Sundays always take precedence over any other feast day) is the Second Sunday in Lent. As you will hear in the very first words, Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem. It is as ominous as it sounds. The second half of the reading, Luke 13:31-35 begins with a warning from the Pharisees for Jesus about Herod's plan to kill him, but it becomes, first, a reflection on the nature of Jesus' life and mission; the ultimate destination of his mission is in fact the reason he is heading for Jerusalem, when he will be put to death. And, second, it becomes a reflection on the tragic role played by Jerusalem in the life of Jesus and other prophets.

You remember the Pharisees. You know, they were just doing their job, in the sense that this religious party they belonged to strongly needed to uphold the Jewish faith as it had been received and was written. They certainly went way overboard in trying to uphold traditions and customs that were NOT in the Holy Scriptures, and Jesus was always pointing this out to them as they tried to trap him. But he also would affirm their understanding and insight when he heard it from them. You gotta wonder, though, when you hear the Pharisees in this story warn Jesus about Herod,

"At that very hour some Pharisees came, and said to him, "[Get away from here](#), for Herod wants to kill you."", whether there was some impurity in their motives! And whether or not their warning is either sincere or representative of a real threat.

In any case, Jesus takes the time to answer their warning.

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.'

Whatever the purposes of the Pharisees and Herod, Jesus uses the threat to make clear the nature of his upcoming death as a part of his mission. Jesus is going to die, but it will have nothing to do with the threat of Herod.

Rather, his death is the completion of his present ministry. He characterizes this ministry as "*casting out demons and performing cures.*" This fits so well with the victory of Jesus over Satan in the wilderness, and how much we need Jesus to save us from those same temptations into sin, and our separation from God. In that way, the passage invites Christians today to reflect on the meaning of Jesus' life and death and on the role we play in the continuing mission of Jesus. But it also points to something we need to make use of during this Lent season, for our penitence and self-examination.

You hear the words about "what is to come", and about the true Prophets who cannot "perish" outside of Jerusalem. Jesus has been journeying to Jerusalem for a few chapters now, and it is a journey that will last 6 more chapters in Luke's Gospel. Jesus' mention of his death there leads him to reflect on the tragedy that Jerusalem had been in Israel's past and will be in Jesus' future, even though its role is a necessary one. There is a major prophetic ministry in Jesus for himself and for the world, which is not only necessary but extremely appropriate in our own daily lives, you see. And all this talk about prophets can raise a very important question for us as we make this journey with Jesus to his crucifixion.

As we walk with him, it's not just his cross for himself that we must consider. We are also, in Lent, preparing ourselves to experience Jesus' cross, seeing to it that we bear our own. As we hear this passage let's consider whether our lives lead appropriately to that cross. Can we make sense of our own personal, seen-by-God lives as a part of how God wants to both establish and build up His kingdom in our world? If we lived in China right now how frightened would we be to leave that mission due to the threats of their earthly rulers; their Herods? And believe me, the gift of prophesy is given so that we CAN IN FACT be recipients of such insight. Why? Because we need God's Truth to set us free.

So, most importantly for this reading, here is the prophesy application to US, as we are the living Jerusalems (because we are living temples of the Holy Spirit) where the Word of God is to make its throne: if Jesus were to speak prophetically to us, what would his message be? How have we played the tragic role of Jerusalem? On the other hand, how have we recognized God's messages and kingdom, and how can we continue to do so?

May Jesus' death be in you, rather than apart from you. And may his resurrection from death and the grave, be also the center of your own death and life in Christ.

Father Robert Eaton, Interim Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27:10-18, Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:22-35

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: The Second Sunday in Lent

8:30a Low Mass (Church)

10:30a Solemn High Mass (Church)

5:15pm Evening Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)

5:45pm Soup Supper (Parish Hall)

6:15pm Lenten Study "All in Prayer, and A Place for Everyone and Everyone in Their Place (Parish Hall)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue—*

Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY: 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)
Lenten Study follows Mass "Why Luke in Lent?"

WEDNESDAY: Noon Stations of the Cross (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY: 6:15pm Stations of the Cross (St. Mary's Chapel)

AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)