

Worship Service: Sunday March 12, 2017
2nd Sunday in Lent
Theme: "Jesus preaches Repentance as he cries over Jerusalem"

WE GATHER IN WORSHIP

Gathering Song: I want Jesus to walk with me

I want Jesus to walk with me,
I want Jesus to walk with me;
All along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
When my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
When my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

*Call to Worship:

Lent calls us to journey, this and every day,
following Jesus wherever he leads us.

**Lent calls us to journey:
to the place where God covenants with us,
to receive the new names we are given.**

Lent calls us to worship together,
to tell future generations the good news.

**Lent calls us to practice justice,
to bring God's hope to all people.**

Lent calls us to faithful living,
to trust the One who gives us life.

**Lent calls each of us to take up our cross,
to trust the One who bears it with us.**

Lent calls us to journey with God.

**Let us worship God, who walks with us,
this and every day.**

*Song: **“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”**

BoP#665

*God's Greeting (*from 2 Corinthians 13:14*)

(Our Lord has called us to worship and now greets us.)

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

*(As God has greeted us with his peace,
so let us pass the peace of Christ to each other.)*

*The Sharing of the Peace (*We greet each other saying, “**The Peace of Christ be with you**”*)

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

Prayers of Adoration and Confession:

Leader: Almighty God of Creation,
Christ, who is both Lord and Servant,
Spirit of new life:
Your being expands into the vast spaces beyond our mind's
grasp and yet is present with us in all places.
You come to us as light and love,
and with even the tiniest spark
you brighten all darkness.
Deepen our sense of your mystery this day.
Open our minds so that we experience you in both your
transcendence and in your immanence.

Sung Chorus:

**Lord I need You oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You**

Voice 1: Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you:
You are gentle with us as a mother with her children;
Often you weep over our sins and our pride:
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement.
You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds:
in sickness, you nurse us, and with pure milk you feed us.

Voice 2: We confess that we fail to recognize the magnitude of your love and grace. Instead, we limit our understanding of you and see you only in our image. In our selfishness, we hope that our will is done rather than praying that yours is done. We resist opening ourselves to your direction and desires. We become so fixated on our strengths that we neglect our deep need for repentance and grace.

Sung Chorus:

Lord I need You oh I need You

Ev'ry hour I need You

My one defense my righteousness

Oh God how I need You

Voice 1: Deliver us from our limited ways and place in us a sense wonder and amazement. Help us to truly worship. Restore our trust. Rekindle our inner courage for the adventure as we seek to be followers of our Lord in whose name we offer our prayers. Amen

Song: **"Lord, I Need You"**

Verse 1

Lord I come I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
And without You I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart

Chorus

Lord I need You oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You

Verse 2

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me
Where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me Chorus

Bridge

So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay Chorus

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Assurance of God's Pardon:

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that he gave his son that all who turn to him may be born again of the spirit. Receive this good news and know that today you are offered new life in Christ.

The Lenten Insert

Song of Dedication: **"O love that will not let me go"**

Bop # 209

Youth message: "Under His Wing"

Youth Song:

"Jesus loves me"

BoP #373

GOD SPEAKS TO US FROM HIS WORD

Prayer for Understanding

The Reading of Scripture:

Psalm 122
Luke 13: 1-9, 31-35

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon: "The Power of Repentance"

Text: Luke 13: 1-9, 31-35

13 *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."*

The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

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.'"

A LOOK AT THE PASSAGE

This Passage Occurs During The Last Year Of Jesus' Public Ministry - Year Of Controversy. Jewish leaders were seeking to silence Him. Here, He is teaching in Judea before a multitude. For them, bad

things happen to good people because they sin. Pilate (Roman Governor) killed some Galileans (Jews from Jesus' region) and mingled their blood with their sacrifices. Tower in Siloam (Jerusalem) fell and killed 18 people. Were they worse sinners? Examples: Job, Hebrew Boys; Elizabeth & Zechariah; Tsunami killed 100,000+; Christians beheaded; tornadoes & flooding in South & Midwest; people sick, some lost loved ones, etc. Why does God allow such? The victims were worse sinners? For Jews, yes. For Jesus, No! God expects repentance. Then He gives a parable.

Repentance [N] [T] [B]

There are three Greek words used in the New Testament to denote repentance.

The verb **metamelomai** is used of a change of mind, such as to produce regret or even remorse on account of sin, but not necessarily a change of heart. This word is used with reference to the repentance of Judas (Matthew 27:3).

Metanoeo, meaning to change one's mind and purpose, as the result of after knowledge. This verb, with (3) the cognate noun

Metanoia , is used of true repentance, a change of mind and purpose and life, to which remission of sin is promised.

Evangelical repentance consists of (1) a true sense of one's own guilt and sinfulness; (2) an apprehension of God's mercy in Christ; (3) an actual hatred of sin (Psalms 119:128 ; Job 42:5 Job 42:6 ; 2 co 7:10) and turning from it to God; and (4) a persistent endeavour after a holy life in a walking with God in the way of his commandments.

It is an intentional change or turning away from sin and turning to God; from wanting to sin to not wanting to sin. God is the one Who grants repentance (Acts 11:18; 2 Tim 2:25) and it must take this miracle of God because the unregenerate human loves their sin and we have an ongoing, constant battle with sin all our lives, even after

conversion (Rom 7). Repentance is a heart change. A heart changed from the desire to sin to the desire to not sin and obey God. It is not remorse or guilt because we were caught in sin. That is a worldly sorrow and that only leads to death. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 7:10 that “godly grief (or sorrow) produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.” If we break down the word “metanoia” it is “meta” which means to change like the change that occurs in a metamorphosis and “noeo” for “to exercise the mind, think,” or “comprehend.” It is not turning from sin but more “changing one’s mind” and this change of mind is wrought by the Holy Spirit and not of human origin (John 6:44; Matt 16:17).

- ***Repentance is a process in which we engage with God who journeys with us.***

Acts 3:19 “Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out.”

Second Peter 3:9 ***“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”***

Peter shows that God is exceedingly patient because “with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day” (2 Pet 3:8) but eventually, God will give us up to our own desires and our hearts can harden (Heb 3:15; Psalm 95:8; 2 Cor 6:2). We know that God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezk 18:23, 32) and desires “that all should reach repentance.”

- ***Repentance and fruit bearing are synonymous as Jesus goes on to tell the parable about a fig tree planted in a vineyard.***

On the repentance journey we are sure to meet many difficulties as we think of turning our lives around. It not always easy just to drop

bad ways or turn away from sin but we are convinced at some point that our way of life need to change.

There will be those days when we get discouraged by the setbacks on the repentance journey and may fall down on our way.

The parable of the fig tree in the vineyard told by Jesus represents two important things for us.

1. We are God's vineyard beautifully planted and nurtured by God.
2. We are expected to flourish and this flourishing happens overtime.

As we journey with Jesus on this second Sunday of Lent we hear Jesus setting the record straight regarding repentance and its importance for our spiritual survival. Jesus pointed out that unless we repent we will all likewise perish. It is repentance that determines our survival and how well we bounce back from the tragedies we face in life.

Jesus also intended to teach that repentance is a process or journey that every human being must face. As we journey God is with us and will help us every time we fall or fail. Amen.

*Song of Response: **"To God be the Glory"** BoP # 350

Prayers of God's People, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

WE BRING OUR GIFTS

Work and Witness of our Church

A Time of Giving

*Sung Response: **"Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow"** BoP#79

WE GO OUT TO SERVE AS THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST

*Closing Song: **“There’s a sweet, sweet spirit in this place”**

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

**Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love.
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived,
When we shall leave this place.**

There are blessings you cannot receive
Till you know Him in His fullness and believe;
You're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."

If you say He saved you from your sin,
Now you're weak, you're bound and cannot enter in,
You can make it right if you will yield,
You'll enjoy the Holy Spirit that we feel.

*The Benediction