

design and timing. Jesus performed His prophetic mission as teacher and miracle worker among the people. His own people rejected Him as they rejected the Prophets of old. The Pharisees advised Jesus to leave. Jesus treated them as Herod's agents and told them what to reply to their master. Jesus mentioned "today and tomorrow" because then comes the "third day" and on the third day His work was finished, He came out of the grave. Jesus quickly switched to a prophetic Word spoken to warn those among the Pharisees of the great Love of God and the depth of their rejection of Him and His mission. Through faith we are able to see Christ at work in our life. All the Pharisees could see was competition for what they considered to be their authority.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Ⓟ Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. You are God, who does not live in a temple made with our hands. You have created all things, both visible and invisible, by Your mighty Word. Grant us a true faith. Help us know that without faith it is impossible to please You, and that anyone who would come to You must believe that You are the Only and the living God who rewards those that seek after Your name. Bring us to understand that You have the whole world in Your hand, and that none of us live only unto ourselves, none of us die only to ourselves, for we are Yours as all of creation is Yours. Grant that we may see that our chief work is to believe in You and in the one You sent, even our Lord Jesus Christ.

You have ordained that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. We ask that You would find among the members of Your church the men and women who will take the Gospel into every home in every land. Give to those so chosen by You, the heart and vision to pray, give, and labor, that all people everywhere will be gathered to Christ our Savior.

We ask this day for all who are in authority over us; that they may have respect for Your Holy will. Cause people everywhere to respect law and justice and to create and enforce legislation that is advantageous to the proclamation of the Gospel.

We ask for any who may live in danger because of the Gospel; preserve them from all harm. We ask for all who live with war in their land; send them peace, especially the knowledge of You that they may be made at peace with their own sinful desires. We ask for all who are ill, troubled in the spirit, or otherwise hurt or injured; send Your Angels to be with them to comfort and lift them up. We ask for our homes; that they would be places of Christian love.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. **(Time of silent prayer.)** These things we ask in the name of Your Son Jesus who gave His life as a ransom for all.

© Amen.

LENT TWO

Chant Tone



<b>Introit</b> Zeal for Your house has con — sumed me,* The reproaches of those who reproach You have fall   en on me.  O God, why do You cast us off for — ever?* Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your — pasture? Remember Your congre — gation,* which You have pur   chased 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 sanctu — ary.  Glory be to the Father and   to the Son* and to the Holy — Spirit; as it was in the be — ginning,* is now, and will be forever. — Amen.  Zeal for Your house has con — sumed me,* The reproaches of those who reproach You have fall   en on me.  <i>(Antiphon, Psalm 69:9; Psalm 74:1-3)</i>
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Collect of the Day

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] — Jesus,\*  
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,  
Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despis | ing the shame,\*  
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

*(Hebrews 12:2)*

Verse

Behold, your house is for — saken.\*  
And I tell you, you will not see me un | til you say,  
"Blessèd is | he who comes\*  
in the name | of the Lord!"

*(Luke 13:35)*

**ENTRANCE PRAYER:** We give glory to Your name, O Lord, for Your steadfast love and faithfulness. Our trust in You has never been misplaced, for You have been our help and shield. You have been mindful of Your own, and we have experienced Your blessings. From this time forth and even forevermore we bless and praise You, O Lord. Send us Your Holy Spirit that He may strengthen our faith in our Savior. Help us trust in Him as the only way between Earth and Heaven, may we constantly rejoice in the certainty of our salvation. All this we ask in the name of Him who justified us in Your sight by His blood, Christ our Lord. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

**THE SUNDAYS IN LENT ARE A TIME TO GET US READY FOR THE CELEBRATION OF EASTER.** In the rites of the church Sunday is always a non-fast day. We wash our face and hands and worship with the knowledge that our Savior lives and has come out of the grave. The tradition was to gather mid week throughout the forty days of Lent, to hear the passion account and leave Sunday for full-throated resurrection worship. The church stopped gathering in the middle of the week. The lessons for our Sunday reading schedule, (when they were modified into the three year reading cycle) suggest the Passion of Christ more than His victory over sin. The liturgy (without Hallelujahs) remains, so sing with all your heart.

**THEME OF THE DAY:**  
Repent and Believe

**INTROIT**—(Antiphon: Psalm 69:9;) Psalm 74:1-3  
Verse 9 of Psalm 69 is applied to Christ and was accomplishment in Him. Psalm 74 was written by Jeremiah. He speaks of the destruction of the Temple and the miseries we all suffer.

### **COLLECT**

Sin hurts, body and soul. We pray that God would keep us from the harms inflicted by sin.

### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**—Jeremiah 26:8-15

Jeremiah made his one message clear: "repent!" The prophets and priests were hearing this as rejection and destruction. God spoke it as an invitation for life and assurance, an opportunity to receive mercy from God. Jeremiah was made very vulnerable by God in these statements. The leaders accused him of blaspheme (which is what they were doing) and stated that he should be killed. Jeremiah was a compassionate man who wrote with deep feeling. Even though he had to declare their doom, he always used it as an opportunity to proclaim God's mercy. He, as Paul and Jesus, spoken only the truth, and for that truth, each would suffer for the Word of God brought near to the people.

### **GRADUAL**—Hebrews 12:2

We are encouraged to look to Jesus for patience and perseverance.

### **EPISTLE LESSON**—Philippians 3:17–4:1

Those who live only for the present, love delusions and seek false gods. Paul encouraged the Christians at Philippi to imitate him as a messenger of Christ. Christians cannot count on this world as their home. Their citizenship is in Heaven. At the same time, in this world they need to live a life of transformation, repentance and renewal. Heaven-bound they long for the kingdom of Heaven to become real. Here we live by the mercy of God, there we will live in God alone.

### **VERSE**—Luke 13:35

Each of the Sundays in Lent walks us ever closer to the cross. Today we use the last verse of the Gospel Lesson to remind ourselves ever to confess Christ before the world for that is the basis of our being blessed.

### **GOSPEL LESSON**—Luke 13:31-35

Jesus was not caught by surprise. His path was taking Him to the cross. He knew every step of His journey. It was the path to the cross and then Resurrection. He performed His work and brought His journey to Jerusalem where He would die. Jesus' life and death followed God's