

Second Sunday in Lent
March 16, 2025



Judgment in the Name of the Lord

Some of us in the room, likely more of us than we imagine, know what a conviction is like. We've had experience with a physical, undisputable, black-robed conviction, the kind handed down by a judge or jury. It's a statistical fact that nearly half of the American population is personally

affected in some way by the criminal justice system. Those numbers are staggering; even more so is the weight of guilt that welds itself to the convicted one's shame like steel clenching iron. To be convicted, found guilty as charged, is no small matter.

It is with such certainty and severity that Jesus unleashes his anguish over Jerusalem—anger and grief that rail with the reverberations of a gavel's blow in the courtroom when words, sharpened for penetration, are pronounced from behind a high bench. Judgments can last a lifetime, and they intentionally have the power to change futures. Jesus was about the work of God, to change futures.

There is no courtroom, no black robe, no jury of twelve peers in Luke's account of Jesus' encounter with some Pharisees. But there is an exacting judgment that rumbles like rolling boulders, a conviction meant to loiter hauntingly like shivering nightmares. Jesus' words prosecute with a burden that few gospel lines expose so solemnly; the accusations are decisive. His judgment falls on the religious.

No, we do not escape, do not get away by dismissing Jesus' words as ancient, frozen in a time long past, petrified among a people long gone, meant only for some others' failures—not our own. The judgment lives on. Pronounced then in the holy city, it ricochets even now through our sacred spaces and hallowed sanctuaries, aimed at the pious and devout who with self-appeasing righteousness look to tame God's word, rebuff God's scandalous mercies, silence God's voice, and break God's will.

The judgment: "How often . . . and you were not willing!" And yet, the promise: "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord" (Luke 13:34-35).

Presiding Minister: Rev. Randy Marburger

Worship Leader: Dr. Wendy S. Farone, Vicar

Assisting Minister: Loran Bohman

Lector: Denise Price

Organist: Drew Pogyor

Altar Care: Loran Bohman

The Sanctuary Light: is given to the Glory of God.

The Columbarium Light: is given to the Glory of God.

Hymns for Sunday

Entrance Hymn **ELW 596 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less**

Hymn of the day **ELW 613 Thy Holy Wings**

Communion Hymns **ELW 468 Around You, O Lord Jesus**
ELW 705 God of Grace and God of Glory

Sending Hymn **ELW 768 Lead Me, Guide Me**

Communion- If you need assistance or are unable to come to the communion rail, you can either stand at the step or stay in your seat and Pastor will come to you. If you are unable to receive either the consecrated bread or wine, receiving either one is acceptable.

Membership- There are many ways to be connected with our congregation. Everyone is welcome to participate in any and all congregation activities; and anyone baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is welcome to Holy Communion. We welcome your request for membership.

Council Meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 20th at 12:30.

Lent Services on March 12, 19, 26 and April 2, 9

- Lenten Light Dinner 5:30-6:45 pm
- Lenten Service 7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday Service, April 17, 7:00 pm

Good Friday Service, April 18, 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday, Service, April 20, 10:00 am

Easter Flower Orders – This is the last Sunday to order Easter Flowers. See insert in bulletin. Turn in forms to the office bin on Apryle's desk. Additional order forms can also be found in the narthex.

Spring Craft Show Saturday, April 2nd from 9 am – 3 pm.

Bible Storytelling News

The Thomases have shared with BS the Sight & Sound Presentation movie, "Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors" which is a musical telling the story of Joseph from the Bible, focusing on his growth and maturity. It is a biblical interpretation of the story, focusing on Joseph's journey from Canaan to Egypt.

Join us at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday March 18th to view the presentation, have discussion, fellowship, and treats.

We appreciate Rich setting up the equipment for us.

"Regular BS" resumes the following Tuesday as we continue our study and discussion of St Luke's Gospel.