

LENT TO HOLY WEEK

Week 1 Sunday 9 March
Week 2 Sunday 16 March
Week 3 Sunday 23 March
Week 4 Sunday 30 March
Week 5 Sunday 6 April
Week 6 Sunday 13 April

Holy week: 14 April to 19 April

We welcome you joining us on the Liturgical journey from Lent to Holy Week. This material reflects the Sunday sermons ensuring the whole church is on the same page and can take the learnings deeper with scripture readings, daily devotions and questions for group discussions. May you draw closer to God whilst learning His truths, find the journey transformative and experience God's love for you in a very deep and real way.

Week 2 Sunday 16 March – Jesus's sorrow for Jerusalem

Bring God into the meeting with prayer, lighting a candle, listening to a worship song.

The Holy City by Stanford Olsen and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir

<https://youtu.be/5Pac3krFyQA?si=VRhhIRd4-qWXBRTL>

Read the Bible readings provided:

Liturgical Date: Second Sunday in Lent

First reading: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalms: Psalm 27

Second reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

Luke 13:31-35 The Message

Jesus' sorrow for Jerusalem

³¹ Just then some Pharisees came up and said, "Run for your life! Herod's got your number. He's out to kill you!" ³²⁻

³⁵ Jesus said, "Tell that fox that I've no time for him right now. Today and tomorrow I'm busy clearing out the demons and healing the sick; the third day I'm wrapping things up. Besides, it's not proper for a prophet to come to a bad end outside Jerusalem. Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killer of prophets, abuser of the messengers of God! How often I've longed to gather your children, gather your children like a hen, her brood safe under her wings— but you refused and turned away! And now it's too late: You won't see me again until the day you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of God.'"

A reflection on the Bible reading by: Tony Matthee (Local Preacher)

I heard a story about a family whose 20-year-old son had become rebellious. He spent his nights drinking and partying and constantly spurned his parents love. One night, in a drunken stupor he appeared at his parent's home, stumbled through the door and passed out on their floor. As the father was about to wake him and kick him out, the mother gently knelt beside him, placed his head on her lap and caressed his hair. When the father began to speak, she said, "Shhh! This is the only time I get to hold him. He's still my son and I want to hold him."

This story, in essence, tells us what the main theme of our passage of Scripture is about. Jesus loves us with an incredible love and so many people reject that love.

Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem and some Pharisees came to Jesus and warned him that Herod wanted to kill him and that he should go somewhere else. Now this is very strange because we read in Luke 11:54 that the Pharisees were opposed to him and besieged him with questions, "*waiting to catch him in something he might say.*" Commentators give many different reasons for the behaviour of these Pharisees.



But the threat was real! This is Herod Antipas. He was the man who had John the Baptist beheaded. He and his soldiers also ridiculed and mocked Jesus at his trial. He was a wicked man. But Jesus responds to the Pharisees calling Herod "*that fox*". It was an expression of utter contempt. Significantly, Herod is the only individual whom Jesus is recorded as treating with contempt. When Jesus was brought before Herod on the night of his betrayal, he again showed Herod contempt by not speaking a word.

There is a lot of speculation about the words Jesus used "*today and tomorrow and the next day,*" but it seems that Jesus was saying that today and tomorrow he was going to carry on doing what his Father required of him and was not going to be dictated to by Herod with his evil intent. Commentators seem to agree that the "*third day*" refers to Jesus' resurrection when Jesus would have achieved his goal.

Then we come to the lament of Jesus over Jerusalem. I can just sense the broken heart inside Jesus as he speaks about this wonderful city, but Jerusalem can also refer to God's chosen people. The city is where the Temple is housed. All the top religious leaders were in Jerusalem. Of all the places in the world, Jerusalem would be the one place where Jesus would be recognised for who he was, but that was not to be. Jerusalem was the place where Jesus would soon be crucified. Jesus knew that in 70 AD Jerusalem would be destroyed. There was still time to repent, but they did not.

The picture of Jesus gathering the children of Jerusalem together as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings is very poignant. In at least 6 verses in the Psalms, we come across the intent expressed by the words "*under the shadow of your wings.*" This was the wish Jesus had for the people in Jerusalem, but they rejected him. The wrath of God came down on Jerusalem in 70AD because of their rejection. Jesus came to this planet earth to die for the sins of the whole world. So great is his love for us. He wants us to admit that we are sinners and come to him for that forgiveness of sin that he alone offers. He gives us a choice as he did for Jerusalem. If we reject Jesus' offer of forgiveness of sin, and salvation leading to eternal life, we can expect nothing less than the wrath of God to be visited upon us as was the case with Jerusalem.

Questions for group discussion:

1. What reasons can you give for the Pharisees warning Jesus not to go to Jerusalem?
2. Jesus showed contempt for Herod. Does that mean he did not love Herod? Discuss.
3. It is said, "God's timing is perfect." Do you believe this? Have you experienced it in your life?
4. Give reasons why you think people reject Jesus today.
5. People say that God is a God of LOVE and that he would not allow anyone to go to hell. Do you agree with this? Give reasons.

Daily lectionary readings:

- **Monday, March 17, 2025:** [Psalm 105:1-42](#); [Exodus 33:1-6](#); [Romans 4:1-12](#);
- **Tuesday, March 18, 2025:** [Psalm 105:1-42](#); [Numbers 14:10b-24](#); [1 Corinthians 10:1-13](#);
- **Wednesday, March 19, 2025:** [Psalm 105:1-42](#); [2 Chronicles 20:1-22](#); [Luke 13:22-31](#);
- **Thursday, March 20, 2025:** [Psalm 63:1-8](#); [Daniel 3:19-30](#); [Revelation 2:8-11](#);
- **Friday, March 21, 2025:** [Psalm 63:1-8](#); [Daniel 12:1-4](#); [Revelation 3:1-6](#);
- **Saturday, March 22, 2025:** [Psalm 63:1-8](#); [Isaiah 5:1-7](#); [Luke 6:43-45](#);



FAMILY TIME:

Written by Jenny Blake – CHILDREN’S PASTOR – jennyb@bmc.org.za

Week 2 - Jesus’ Sorrow for Jerusalem

Scripture: Luke 13:31-35 (The Message)

Key Verse: “Jerusalem, Jerusalem... How often I’ve longed to gather your children, like a hen, her brood safe under her wings—but you refused and turned away!” (Luke 13:34)

Introduction

Have you ever wanted to help someone, but they wouldn’t listen? Maybe you saw a friend making a bad choice, but they didn’t take your advice. In today’s story, Jesus felt deep sorrow because the people of Jerusalem were rejecting Him. He wanted to protect and guide them, but they refused to listen.

Bible Story Recap

Some Pharisees warned Jesus that King Herod wanted to kill Him. But Jesus wasn’t afraid—He knew His mission and wouldn’t be stopped. Instead of running away, He spoke about His deep love for Jerusalem. Jesus compared Himself to a mother hen, longing to gather her chicks and keep them safe. But the people kept rejecting Him. Even though He knew they would turn against Him, Jesus’ heart was still full of love and compassion for them.

Family Discussion Questions

1. **Why was Jesus sad about Jerusalem?**
Talk about how Jesus wanted to protect them, but they kept rejecting Him.
2. **How does Jesus’ love compare to a mother hen’s care for her chicks?**
Discuss how Jesus longs to keep us close, safe, and loved.
3. **What does it mean to listen to Jesus?**
Share ways we can follow Jesus’ guidance in our daily lives.

Teen Discussion Questions

1. **Why do you think people reject Jesus, even today?**
Reflect on how pride, distractions, or fear can keep people from following Him.
2. **Jesus didn’t let fear stop Him from His mission. What fears keep us from doing what’s right?**
Talk about peer pressure, standing up for faith, or making hard choices.
3. **Jesus’ love never gives up, even when people reject Him. How can we show that kind of love to others?**
Think of ways to love difficult people, forgive, and be kind even when it’s hard.

Activity: A Safe Place in Jesus

Draw or print a picture of a hen with chicks under her wings. Write on the chicks’ bodies things that make you feel afraid or lost. Then, write “Jesus is my shelter” over the mother hen. Use this as a reminder that Jesus always welcomes and protects us.

Prayer

“Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us even when we turn away. Help us to listen to You and trust that You want what’s best for us. Give us courage to follow You and share Your love with others. Amen.”