

# TRINITY 10

**August 5 2018**

Old Test: Jeremiah 7:1-11

Epistle: I Corinthians 12:1-11

Gospel: Luke 19:41-48

## ***Standing...***

Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Forty years after Jesus said it would happen, it did.

The destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.

Observed today because it falls closest to August 10<sup>th</sup>.

Let us pray. May the words of my mouth and the meditations of all our hearts be acceptable in Your sight O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

## ***Sitting...***

Each Sunday I'm reminded of the truths displayed in the stained glass above the altar.

The far side proclaims truths of God, the Son—

How He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords...

How He is the Lamb of God who takes away our sins.

And how He is the One who rose from the dead, depicted by the butterfly.

The stained glass on the other side proclaims truths of God, the Holy Spirit—

Seen as the dove who descends upon Jesus at His baptism, and yours...

As well as how He uses means—namely, the Word of God

which is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

And how He calls men and women,

boys and girls to the truth of the Gospel,

depicted by the bell.

The stained glass in the center proclaims truths of God, the Father.

In that He is the One who sees and knows all,

and how His hand is extended towards humanity—in both creation and blessing.

He provides all we need to support this body and life—with the cornucopia.

And then finally...if you can make it out, at the bottom...

there's the depiction of a mother hen—protecting & caring for her young.

All are wonderful images—powerful truths.  
 And it's that last image,  
     the one of the mother hen—given to us today in our Gospel reading.  
     For you see,  
     Israel was the nation God nurtured—raising them from infancy.

I mean, Jerusalem was the city of God,  
 the place where God chose to dwell with Man.  
 It's where He placed His temple, His altar...  
     where He listened to prayer and accepted sacrifices.  
     Sacrifices were sermons, the preaching of law and Gospel.  
     The law teaching that sin deserves death,  
         but in the sacrifices one would see that the Lord accepts the  
         blood of another...in their place.  
     Again, Jerusalem was God's self-chosen "home" on earth.  
         Not a home because He needed a place to live,  
         but because Mankind  
         needed a place to dwell with God.

Israel had all the blessings,  
 the hand of God,  
     extended out to them giving them prophets and the Temple.  
     But what did they do to the prophets? They killed them.  
     What did they do to the Temple?  
     They turned it from a house of prayer into a den of thieves,  
     something done in Jeremiah's day as well.  
     When the Lord sent His Word to His people,  
         they rejected it,  
         despised it—thought less of it,  
         mocked and scorned it,  
             and then, at last,  
         when the Word of God came in the flesh,  
         they crucified Him.

Jesus' words come at the beginning of Holy Week,  
 specifically, the Triumphal Entry  
     where Jesus comes into Holy Jerusalem to save her.

Think of it!

All of Jerusalem's history—all of it—had been leading up to the arrival of God's own Son in the flesh at Jerusalem's gates...

God's Messiah, the King of Kings, riding in with salvation!

As the crowds sing their Hosanna's and rejoice, Jesus weeps...

He weeps over the tragedy that is Jerusalem.

For Jesus knew the city, as a whole, would reject Him.

No matter what He did, how much He preached, and no matter how much the Apostles preached after His resurrection and ascension.

The city, as a whole, would cling to their sins, continue in their unbelief and even persecute Christians,

killing some and driving the rest out of Jerusalem.

Again, the hand of God was extended to Jerusalem.

Apostles were sent to preach repentance and the forgiveness of sins.

Holy Baptism was held out as a gift too, as a means of salvation, yet they would not repent and believe, nor be baptized.

Even after playing its awful part in the crucifixion of the Son of God, which they would have been forgiven of—they instead would suffer God's wrath.

Even though Jesus held out His arms towards them,

pleading with them to trust in Him,

to take shelter behind Him and His cross,

as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings,

they were not willing.

This sealed the most horrible fate for them—Annihilation, within 40 years.

Annihilation not at the hands of Christians,

but at the hands of the Romans,

whom God would use as a means to bring about judgement.

The historical record indicates—

The Romans besieged the city for six months—nothing came in or went out.

The glorious walls of Jerusalem were demolished.

The city was burned, and its inhabitants slaughtered.

All of it taking place 40 years after Jesus said it.

It's when God abandoned Jerusalem for good.

St. Matthew records Jesus saying: **O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her!** (the hand) **How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings,** (the hen) **but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate.**

Or as it's recorded in St. Luke, **"If you,"** Jesus says to Jerusalem, **"had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace!**

What made for Jerusalem's peace? The same things that make for your peace!

The righteousness of Christ and the precious blood of Christ.

The New Testament in His body and blood given to eat and drink;

and Holy Baptism by which He offers forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

Jesus says, **But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."** (Luke 19:42-44)

You know, those verses are inscribed on a plaque,  
just outside the walls of Jerusalem.  
It's there today,  
placed in front of a huge pile of stones,  
standing as a reminder of what the Romans did,  
and that our Lord said,  
"...they will not leave one stone upon another."



Granted, not all the Jews would reject Christ.

Some would be converted.

Some would repent and believe in Jesus.

Some sooner, like those on the Day of Pentecost,

and some later, like the Apostle Paul,

who started out as a persecutor of Christ and His Church.

How would they be converted?

Only by the power of the Holy Spirit working through the  
Word of God as it was preached...

because, **Faith comes by hearing...**

But when it came to the place where the LORD God was to be sought and heard,  
the people couldn't hear the Word of Christ. Greedy, opportunistic salesmen had  
set up shop there, & apparently, the priests and religious leaders were fine with it.

How could anyone think with all that commerce taking place?  
 How could anyone pray?  
 How could anyone know the true God and hear His Word?  
 How could anyone contemplate their sin and the atoning sacrifices for sin?  
 How could anyone hear the words that Jesus wanted to teach  
 over the next few days of that Holy Week? They couldn't.

So, when Jesus arrives at the Temple,  
 He drives them out—overturning their tables and chairs.  
 St. John tells us He even made a whip, rebuking them saying:

**It is written, 'My house is a house of prayer,'  
 but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'**

—sounds just like the prophet Jeremiah.

Jesus clears away all the manmade obstacles,  
 so as to spend the rest of the week preaching to those who would listen—  
 one last time before He, the Lamb of God,  
 would be offered up for the sins of the world.

This beloved, is why we pray for those now in error,  
 that they may come to repentance.  
 We pray as well for those who haven't heard the Word of Christ,  
 that they may hear and believe.  
 But—we ought as well to remember, the fall of Jerusalem.

The Scripture is clear, **God our Savior desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.**

God desires all to be saved, but He wants to save them in the way He's ordained:  
 through faith in His Son, whom He gave as a ransom for all.  
 And if sinners, Jew or Gentile, stubbornly refuse to repent and believe in His Son,  
 the One appointed Mediator between God and Man,  
 then, as a result of their unbelief,  
 God will bring about what is referred to as His alien work—  
 giving them what they deserve for their sins:  
 punishment and destruction.

Beloved, Jesus came to save, not destroy;  
to rescue, not to ruin.  
I mean, the Lord God poured out His wrath on His Son,  
so that Jerusalem, together with all the world, together with you,  
would not have to taste His wrath.

So be assured—Jesus desires your salvation  
every bit as much as He desired the salvation of Old Jerusalem.  
They didn't fall because they sinned too much.  
They fell because they refused to repent of their sins and believe in Christ.

You though, by God's grace, stand in faith—  
praising God for His gracious gifts of Word and Sacraments.  
Because of them you have entered His New Jerusalem,  
grafted into the tree of life which is Christ Jesus our Lord,  
who now—even now,  
holds out His forgiveness to you today in His Supper.

In the Holy Name of Jesus, Amen.

***Standing...***

And now may the peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and  
minds through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Sitting...***