



*Drawing by Jon Hlafter*

## The Lutheran Church of the Messiah

📍 407 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ 08540

☎ (609) 924-3642

✉ [lcmprinceton@gmail.com](mailto:lcmprinceton@gmail.com)

🌐 [www.princetonlutheranchurch.org](http://www.princetonlutheranchurch.org)

♦ [www.facebook.com/MessiahChurchPrinceton](https://www.facebook.com/MessiahChurchPrinceton)

Martin K. Erhardt, *Pastor*

Janice Hofreiter, *Organist*

Paul C. Hofreiter, *Choir Director*

John Mark Goerss, D. Min., *Pastor Emeritus*

Second Sunday in Lent (Reminiscere)

March 16, 2025

**Prayer upon entering:** Heavenly Father, it is your glory always to have mercy. Bring back all who have erred and strayed from your ways; lead us again to embrace in faith the truth of your Word and to hold it fast; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

**Guests, welcome!** We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Erhardt, sign our guest book next to the main doors. Bibles are available on a shelf in the back of the nave. Kneelers and large-print bulletins are available from the ushers upon request. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join us here at Messiah.

**Worship** begins with the prelude and continues through the postlude. Once the prelude begins, please refrain from conversation. We use two hymnals: the green *Lutheran Book of Worship* (LBW) and the blue paperback *With One Voice* (wov). Hymn numbers below 600 are generally in LBW; above 600, in wov. The pastor's parts (spoken and sung) are designated "P:." Parts spoken or sung by the congregation are italicized, prefaced by "C:." The liturgy text and music are in the LBW on the pages noted in this service folder.

**Holy Communion:** Lutheran Christians celebrate a divine service of Word and sacrament in which God comes to us both in his proclaimed Word and in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We invite to commune at the Lord's table all baptized Christians who with contrite hearts trust God's word of forgiveness for their sins, acknowledge the presence of Jesus Christ both in the Communion elements and in this gathered body of believers, and seek, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to follow Jesus and walk in newness of life. If this doesn't describe you, we invite you to come to the altar rail to receive a blessing instead of the Communion elements. Indicate this by folding your arms across your chest at the rail. All are invited to bring their children forward for a blessing.

Individual cups are available in addition to the chalice (the common cup). Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are also available upon request from the server at the Communion rail. All are invited to bring their children forward for a blessing.

**Families with young children:** Welcome! We have children's activity backpacks in the back of the church for use during the service, as well as an unstaffed nursery on the stage downstairs. Feel free to ask an usher for help locating them. The stairs are at the back of the sanctuary.

*Confession and Forgiveness*

*Please stand as you are able.*

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *Amen*

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: *who made heaven and earth.*

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: *and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.*

*Please kneel or sit for silent reflection and confession.*

P: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: *Most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen*

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal glory. Resting in Christ's righteousness and not on your own confession, receive God's free and full forgiveness, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

*Please stand as you are able.*

## *Divine Service of Word and Sacrament*

*Opening Hymn*    We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died    LBW 344

### *Apostolic Greeting*

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: *And also with you.*

### *Kyrie*

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

### *Prayer of the Day*

P: Let us pray.

C: *God of hope beyond all human hope, you promised descendants as numerous as the stars to old Abraham and barren Sarah. You promise light and salvation in the midst of darkness and despair, and redemption to a world that will not listen. Open our ears to listen to your word, and teach us to live faithfully as people confident that you fulfill your promises. Amen*

Please be seated for the scripture readings, printed on the back cover of this service folder.

### *First Lesson*

*Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18*

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

### *Psalm 27*

*p. 227*

### *Second Lesson*

*Philippians 3:17 - 4:1*

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

*Choir Anthem*

Forget Me Not

Words: Gottfried Arnold; tr. Dorothy Parry Thomas

Music: Melody anonymous (1698); figured bass by J. S. Bach  
ed. Charles Kennedy Scott

“Forget me not!”

Then shall I not permit Thee to be forgot,

Oh holy stem of Jesse.

Within my heart I will remember Thee.

And all the countless joy and loving kindness

Which thou, unsought, hast shown despite my sin and blindness.

Whate'er my lack, whate'er my lot,

Forget me not!

Safe from all harms,

My Shepherd and my Master,

Within Thine arms

Thou bearest me to pasture.

Oh lose me not, my Shepherd, from thy care

But with Thy tender love and wise affection

Let me beside Thee walk in thy divine protection.

Oh guide me with Thy staff and rod,

Forget me not!

*Verse (Joel 2:13)* (please stand):

*p. 63*

*C: Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger,  
and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

### *Gospel Lesson*

*Luke 13:31-35*

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

### *Children's Sermon*

*Sermon*      Citizens of Heaven, on Earth

### *Hymn of the Day*

O Christ the Same

WOV 778

### *Creed (Apostles')*

*Spoken in unison*

C: *I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.*

*He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.*

*He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.*

*He descended into hell.*

*On the third day he rose again.*

*He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

*He will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,*

*the holy catholic Church,*

*the communion of saints,*

*the forgiveness of sins,*

*the resurrection of the body,*

*and the life everlasting. Amen*

## *The Prayers of the People*

P: Led by Christ in our journey of repentance and moved by his compassion, let us pray for the church of Christ throughout the world and for those known to us in need of prayer.

After each prayer or petition,

P: Create in us a clean heart, O God,

C: *and renew a right spirit within us.*

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: *Amen*

## *The Sharing of the Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *And also with you.*

Please exchange a greeting of peace with your neighbors, then be seated.

## *Gathering of Offerings*

*As the offering is brought forward, please stand and sing vv. 10–12 of Psalm 51, a psalm of penitence (next page):*



**C** Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it

from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -


tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

P: Let us pray.

Blessed are you,

C: *O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*


## The Great Thanksgiving



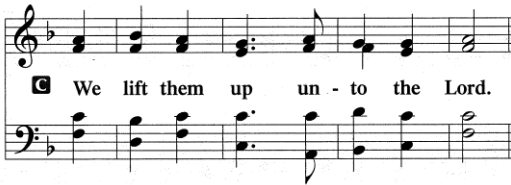
**P** The Lord be with you.



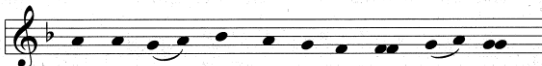

**C** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



**C** It is meet and right so to do.



*Meet* means fitting, proper.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God: Who on the tree of the cross didst give salvation unto mankind that, whence death arose, thence Life also might rise again; and that he who by a tree once overcame might likewise by a tree be overcome, through Christ, our Lord; through whom with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying:

(turn page)

## Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,

ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,

bless-ed is He, bless-ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.

Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## *The Words of Institution*

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me.”

In the same way also he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you and for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

## *The Lord's Prayer*

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

*C: Our Father, who art in heaven: hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen*

*Agnus Dei: Lamb of God*

♩ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

The first system of music consists of a vocal line in G major (one sharp) and a piano accompaniment in G major. The vocal line begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a half note A4-B4, and then a quarter note G4. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand.

world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that

The second system continues the vocal line with a quarter note G4, followed by a half note A4-B4, and then a quarter note G4. The piano accompaniment continues with similar rhythmic patterns.

tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

The third system continues the vocal line with a quarter note G4, followed by a half note A4-B4, and then a quarter note G4. The piano accompaniment continues with similar rhythmic patterns.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

The fourth system continues the vocal line with a quarter note G4, followed by a half note A4-B4, and then a quarter note G4. The piano accompaniment continues with similar rhythmic patterns.

world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

The fifth system concludes the piece. The vocal line has a quarter note G4, followed by a half note A4-B4, and then a quarter note G4. The piano accompaniment continues with similar rhythmic patterns.

Once the pastor says, “Welcome to the table of the Lord,” kneel or sit. Because Communion is important, please read and follow our Communion policy, printed on p. 2 of this service folder. If you are not communing, you are invited to come forward to receive a blessing, but feel no pressure to do so. If you do come forward for a blessing (only), indicate this by folding your arms across your chest when you kneel at the altar rail. When the pastor dismisses you, please return to your seat by the center aisle. If you would like Communion brought to your seat, please raise your hand to alert the pastor.

*Communion Hymn*      Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me      LBW 327

*After all have returned to their places, the pastor says: (please stand)*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C: *Amen*

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in D major. The treble staff begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4 and B4. The bass staff provides harmonic support with chords. The lyrics are: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -"

cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

The second system continues the melody. The treble staff has a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes C5, B4, and A4. The bass staff continues with chords. The lyrics are: "cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,"

which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

The third system continues the melody. The treble staff has a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, F4, and E4. The bass staff continues with chords. The lyrics are: "which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,"

a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

The fourth system continues the melody. The treble staff has a quarter note D4, followed by quarter notes C4, B3, and A3. The bass staff continues with chords. The lyrics are: "a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy"

peo - ple Is - ra - el.

The fifth system concludes the piece. The treble staff has a quarter note G3, followed by quarter notes F3, E3, and D3. The bass staff continues with chords. The lyrics are: "peo - ple Is - ra - el."



## *Post-Communion Prayer*

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: *Amen*

## *Closing*

P: The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

C: *He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable.*

P: He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

C: *Even youths shall faint and be weary, and the young shall fall exhausted;*

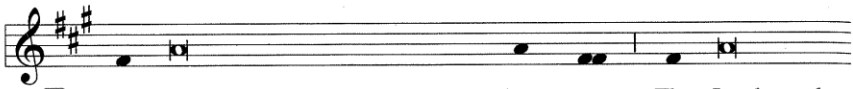
P: But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;

C: *They shall mount up with wings like eagles;*

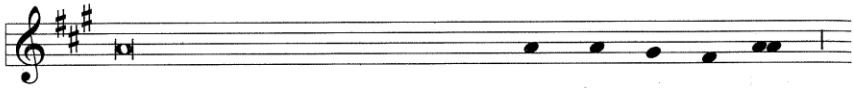
P: They shall run and not be weary;

C: *They shall walk and not faint.*

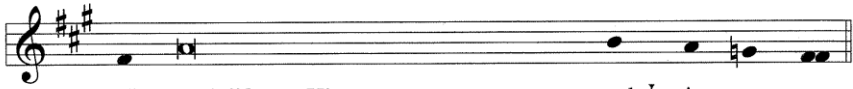
## Benediction



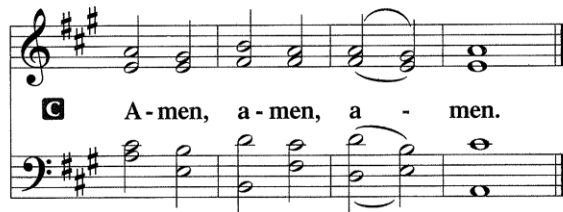
**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and  $\dagger$  give you peace.



**C** A - men, a - men, a - men.

## Postlude

Aria

Samuel Wesley  
ed. Charles Callahan

## Announcements

**P:** Go in peace, for God walks with us through the wilderness.

*All: Thanks be to God!*

**Curious about the Latin** on the dateline on the first page of the service folder? Latin was the primary liturgical language of Western Christianity until quite recently, and is still used today. Lutherans and other Christians in the Western tradition often begin Sunday worship services with an "introit" (entrance) Bible verse, usually from a psalm. Sundays were named for the first word of the introit. Today's word is "Reminiscere", which begins Psalm 25:6 and means "Remember..."

Portions of our liturgy today are reprinted from the Lutheran Service Book (Divine Service, Setting III) © 2006 Concordia Publishing House (CPH), and from The Lutheran Hymnal, © 1941 CPH. CPH liturgy resources are used by permission, under license #13668. The Prayer upon Entering and the Apostles' Creed are reprinted from the Lutheran Book of Worship, copyright 1978. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress, license # 15443-L. The Prayer of the Day is adapted from *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*, © 2002 Consultation on Common Texts. The prelude © 2007 Augsburg Fortress is broadcast with permission under OneLicense.net #A-720141. The prelude is ©1998 Concordia Publishing House.

This coming week

Tue	7:00 PM	Service of Healing at St. Peter (see p. 22)
Wed	6:00 PM	Soup & Salad with Tim Krick of Lutheran World Relief
Wed	7:00 PM	Lenten Evening Prayer (LBW p. 142)
Wed	7:45 PM	Choir
Sun	9:00 AM	Adult Forum
Sun	10:30 AM	Service of Word and Sacrament

Thank you to today's Temple Servants

Acolyte	Tom Fusco
Reader	Joan Colliflower
Ushers	Hans and Veronika Henkes
Fellowship Host	Barbara Rutherford
Chancel	Pastor Erhardt
Offering Counter	Greg Dignon
Livestream	Mark von Bargaen

## Next Sunday

Isaiah 55:1-9 • Psalm 63:1-8 • 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 • Luke 13:1-9

Opening Hymn: Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart (LBW 486)

Hymn of the Day: Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer (LBW 343)

Communion Hymn: O Bread of Life from Heaven (LBW 222)

**Adult Forum** meets at 9am on Sundays in the parish building library.

Current Series (March 9 – April 13): *Navigating Troubled Waters in the Bible, Hymns, & Our Lives*

Next Series (begins April 27): *Celebrating the Nicene Creed at 1700*

### **Lenten Wednesdays at Messiah, Mar. 12 – Apr. 9 (not Mar. 5 or Apr. 16)**

6:00 PM Soup & Salad Supper with Tim Krick of Lutheran World Relief

7:00 PM Lenten Evening Prayer (LBW p. 142)

Theme: *Navigating Troubled Waters*

7:45 PM Choir rehearsal (join us for the season or longer!)

**This Wednesday, March 19, the Rev. Tim Krick, congregational liaison for Lutheran World Relief, will join us for soup & salad** and give a brief presentation about LWR's work, of which Messiah is a long-time supporter.

**Thank you to those who have generously volunteered to host Lenten soup & salad suppers!** If you will need to enter the church building before 5 PM on a supper Wednesday and don't have a key, please contact Pastor.

**Supper Hosts**

March 12: Laura Bennett, Elizabeth, and Julia

March 19: Louise Cooper

March 26: Debbie Baer

April 2: Pat Hlafter & Carolyn Gishlick

April 9: Marion Zukas and Miranda Hempel

**Window replacement is underway!** Nelson Glass expects to complete work on the sanctuary windows by the end of March. No changes to our worship schedule or location are planned. If you have questions about the project, contact Paul Majsztrik.

**Pastor Erhardt leads a monthly community book discussion:**

April 10: *Dissolution*, by C. J. Sansom

May 15: *The Barbarian Conversion*, by Richard Fletcher (Ch. 1-8)

June 12: *The Barbarian Conversion*, by Richard Fletcher (Ch. 9-16)

Discussions begin at 7:30 PM via Zoom. Please obtain and read the book before each discussion, and email Pastor Erhardt for a Zoom invitation.

**Service of Healing at St. Peter Lutheran Church, 1608 Harbourton**

Rocktown Rd in Hopewell Twp, at 7pm Tuesday, March 18.

More information on the flyer by the Cedar Lane door.

**Save the Date: Spring Work Day: Saturday, April 26, 9am – 12:30pm**

Come when you can and leave when you must. We'll have plenty of work to go around for people of all ages and abilities. Gardening volunteers, please bring gloves and tools. It's fun, lunch is provided and your help is greatly appreciated!

**Available on the back pew:**

- (1) March/April 2025 edition of the *Messiah Messenger*
- (2) Portals of Prayer devotion booklets for April-June 2025
- (3) February-May 2025 Temple Servant schedule

**Prayer Corner**

We remember in our prayers:

- The Henkes family (mourning the death of Hans's father, Maarten Henkes), Micha Livne (friend of the Gishlicks who is ill), Julia Majsztrik (with thanksgiving for healing from heart surgery and praying for continued good health), Carole Bleicher (friend of Carolyn Gishlick), Ted Alslev (son of Elda Alslev, to overcome his addiction to smoking), Mary Pickens (friend of Jon and Pat Hlafter, undergoing an experimental medical treatment), Sue Parisi (friend of Pat Hlafter, being treated for breast cancer), Peter Schulze (son of Lydia and Carl Schulze, friends of Miranda Hempel, Brad Bergmann, and Jenny Mills – for comfort, strength, and healing

Prayer requests are generally printed in the Prayer Corner and included in the Sunday intercessory prayers for 4 weeks. If you would like us to keep someone there longer, we are happy to do that. Please call the church office or email [lcmaprinceton@gmail.com](mailto:lcmaprinceton@gmail.com) to let Pastor Erhardt know.

**First Lesson: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18**

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O LORD God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O LORD God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates..."

**Second Lesson: Philippians 3:17 - 4:1**

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

**Gospel Lesson: Luke 13:31-35**

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"