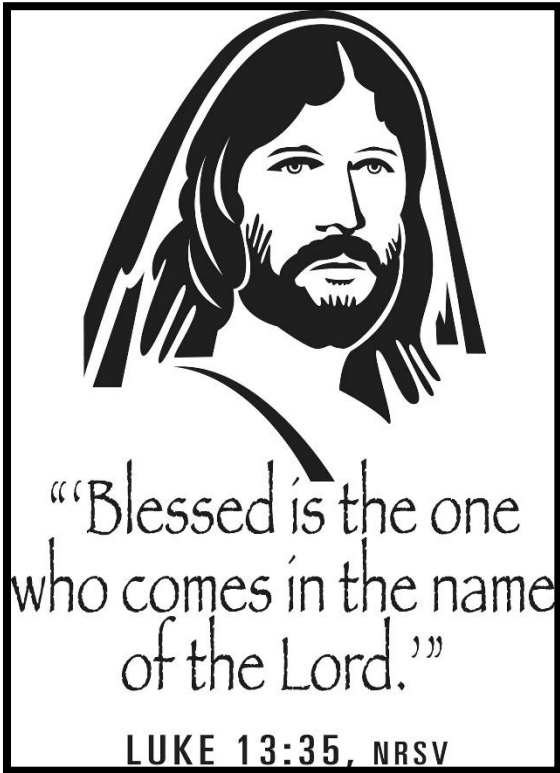


Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✠ Holy Communion ✠

Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT



Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Kneel

P: Compassionate One,

C: **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.**

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

**Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

Amen

P: Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

C: Amen

Stand

GATHERING HYMN

***My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*.....LBW 294**

1 My hope is built on nothing less than
 2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,

Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
 rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
 tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are -
 may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -

own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain

On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.
 Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

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



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Sit

WORD**FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18**

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

A: A Reading from Genesis:

¹ 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." ² 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?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ 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." ⁵ 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." ⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ 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." ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ 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."

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 27

The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.



In the day of trou - ble, God will give me shel - ter.

Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.



- 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?
- 2 **When evildoers close in against me to de- | vour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stum- | ble and fall.**
- 3 Though an army encamp against me, my heart | will not fear.
Though war rise up against me, my trust will | not be shaken.
- 4 **One thing I ask of the LORD; one | thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to
gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God | in the temple. R**
- 5 For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- | on
a rock.
- 6 **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who surround
me.
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of
rejoicing;
I will sing and make music | to the LORD.**
- 7 Hear my voice, O LORD, | when I call;
have mercy on me and | answer me.
- 8 **My heart speaks your message— | “Seek my face.”
Your face, O LORD, | I will seek. R**
- 9 Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- | vant in anger.
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God
of | my salvation.
- 10 **Though my father and my moth- | er forsake me,
the LORD will | take me in.**
- 11 Teach me your | way, O LORD;
lead me on a level path, because of | my oppressors.

- ¹² **Subject me not to the will | of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses | breathing violence.**
- ¹³ This I believe—that I will see the goodness | of the LORD
in the land | of the living!
- ¹⁴ **Wait for the LORD | and be strong.
Take heart and wait | for the LORD! R**

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.

A: A Reading from Philippians:

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ 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.

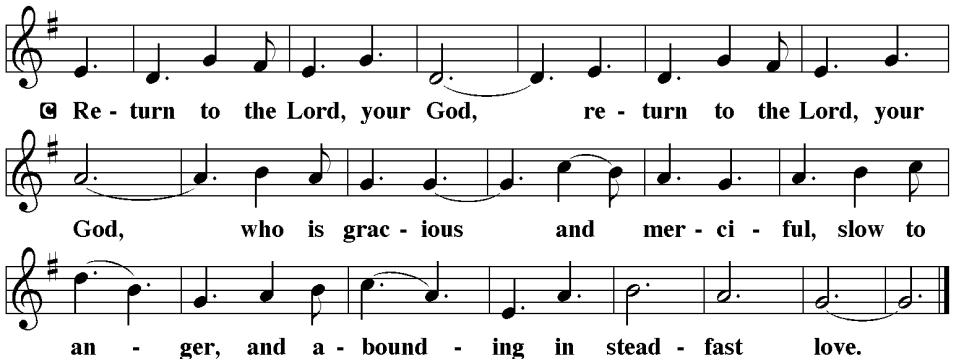
^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, re - turn to the Lord, your
God, who is grac - ious and mer - ci - ful, slow to
an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³² 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. ³³ 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.' ³⁴ 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! ³⁵ 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.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

SERMON..... **Janet Stroble**

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth..... **LBW 421**



1 Lord Christ, when first you came to earth, up - on a cross
2 O awe - some Love, which finds no room in life where sin
3 New ad - vent of the love of Christ, will we a - gain
4 O wound - ed hands of Je - sus, build in us your new



they bound you, and mocked your sav - ing king - ship's worth
de - nies you, and, doomed to death, shall bring to doom
re - fuse you, till in the night of hate and war
cre - a - tion; our pride is dust, our vaunt is stilled;



by thorns with which they crowned you. And
 the pow'r which cru - ci - fies you, till
 we per - ish as we lose you? From
 we wait your rev - e - la - tion. O



still our wrongs may fash - ion now new thorns to pierce that,
 not a stone was left on stone, and then the na - tions'
 an - cient doubts our minds re - lease to seek the king - dom
 Love that tri - umphs o - ver loss, we bring our hearts be -



stead - y brow, and robe of sor - row round you.
 pride, o'er - thrown, will nev - er - more de - fy you!
 of your peace, by which a - lone we choose you.
 fore your cross to fin - ish your sal - va - tion.

Text: W. Russell Bowie, 1882–1969, alt.
 Music: MIT FREUDEN ZART, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

APOSTLES' CREED

**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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A brief silence is held after the introduction.

P: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

After each petition:

P: God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

C: Amen

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The pastor and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you. R: Peace be with you.

Sit

MEAL

OFFERING

The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.

ANTHEM

***I Lift My Soul* William Miller**

Stand

OFFERTORY

As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung

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 your pres - ence, and take
 not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the
 joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: Gracious Provider,
 you set your immense treasures among us,
 opening your heart to the world.
 As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
 deepen our commitment to sharing those
 treasures with others,
 through our Savior, Jesus Christ.
 Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it,
and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink,
saying: This cup is
the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection,
and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: All who are hungry, come!
 The feast of grace is spread.

C: Thanks be to God.

C Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

All baptized believers are invited to this holy meal. Those not communing are invited for a blessing. Please follow the instructions of the ushers to gather at the altar table. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
 The communicant may say: Amen

COMMUNION HYMN

Around You, O Lord Jesus LBW 496

1 A - round you, O Lord Je - sus, your own you gath - er still
 2 We hear your in - vi - ta - tion, and heed, O Lord, your call;
 3 We are your own for - ev - er; un - til our fi - nal breath

to share the feast you give us with grace our lives to fill.
 your word of con - so - la - tion is spo - ken here to all.
 we will be true and nev - er— in joy, in grief, in death—

You say to us so lov - ing - ly, “Take, eat! This is my
 It draws us to your lov - ing heart; it brings to us your
 de - part from you, for you are still a - mong your peo - ple

bod - y! Take, drink! This is my blood!”
 bless - ing, which nev - er will de - part.
 dwell - ing, as you have said you will.

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. composite
 Music: O JESU, AN DE DINA, H. Thomissön, *Den danske Psalmebog*, 1569
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Stand

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

C: **Amen**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Generous Host,
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

SENDING

SENDING OF THE EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

P: Gracious God,
loving all your family with a mother's tender care:
As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread,
assist us in this ministry on which we are sent forth.
In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom
we bring this sacrament, that through the body and blood of
your Son we may all know the comfort of your abiding
presence.

C: **Amen**

BLESSING

P: God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen**

SENDING HYMN

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer.....LBW 343

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me with your
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on

pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
 Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es,

feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Fred Harbaugh, Susan Christ, AnnMarie Hohman, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker; **Lay Assistant:** Susan Bryan; **Comm. Assistant:** Sherri Holtzman; **Acolyte:** Doriann Morris; **Altar Guild:** Marie Welter, April Gardner; **Greeters/Communion Presenters:** Mary Schultz, Ron Yeagle
Cantor: Carol Waltz; **Flower Delivery:** Cindy Bennett

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Nelson Silverstrim and Doris Webb Silverstrim, on the 80th anniversary of their wedding, March 17, 1945, by their sons and families.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in honor of Carol Hessert and in loving memory of what would have been Sam and Carol's 63rd wedding anniversary on March 16th, with love from their daughter Pam.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Messiah Church! It is our joy to have you worship with us. If you are visiting, please make yourself known and leave your name & information to a congregation member. *We hope to see you again.*

This morning we welcome Janet Stroble, an Authorized Lay Worship Leader (ALWL) of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Janet has received extensive training so as to provide worship leadership and preaching, and has been authorized by the bishop of the synod to preside at the Eucharist.

March 29th from 9 – Noon will be our annual Lenten Kids in Mission. We are in need of volunteers to teach, assist and walk children from one activity to another. If you know someone you think may be interested, please let me know or contact them directly. It's always a fun morning not only for the kids but for the volunteers, as well! Thanks for your prayerful consideration. Kathryn

Copies of the Lenten Devotional Booklet and Lenten Self-Denial Folders are available in the Narthex or the church office. The Self Denial folders contributions will benefit the Shepherd of the Streets.

NOW IS THE TIME to put in your reservation for memorial Easter Flowers. Several varieties of flowers are available. More information can be found on the order form. **PLEASE RETURN THE ORDER FORM BY Sunday, March 30th.**

Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. during Lent there will be Lenten Vespers held in the Chapel followed by a brief Bible Study.

Did your child ever attend Messiah Preschool? This marks the 50th year, and a celebration will take place May 18th immediately following worship. We would love to have photos, name of your child or children, year they attended Messiah preschool and the teacher at that time. If you recall any interesting stories your child experienced during their years at Messiah preschool and would like to share, drop off the information to the church office by April 30th. **Please note**, include names and years on all pictures shared so you are sure to get them back. Thank you, the Preschool Board.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
REV. A. BRUCE AMME, PRESIDING AND PREACHING
JARED GIST, ORGANIST

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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).

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