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*Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 17, 2024*

Greeting

Call to Worship:

Pastor: Pecking away at our daily tasks, sitting in a knot of traffic:

**People: we wait for you, God of all words, to speak to us.**

Pastor: Pacing the halls of a hospital, sitting outside the doctor’s office:

**People:** **we wait for you, God of comfort, to fill us with hope.**

Pastor: In the silence of each night, beginning each day’s new journey:

**People: we wait for you, Steadfast Love, for you are our safe place.**

**Worship Music Glorious Day**

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord our God, in the midst of our harried lives, we come before You in humility, recognizing that You are the God of all creation. We ask You to open our hearts, to hear our prayers, to listen to our songs, to fulfill our needs, and to encourage us in our faithfulness. In this time of worship, may we be full of awe and wonder, knowing You are the Author of Salvation, the First and the Last, the Almighty One our God. **AMEN.**

\*OPENING HYMN Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken #731

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 102: 12-17 NLT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

SPECIAL MUSIC Tracy Finefrock

OFFERTORY INVITATION:

Making an offering, giving, and being generous are a lot like planting seeds. A single seed can produce a bountiful harvest. Imagine how big an impact we can have when together we plant generously with our gifts to this community of faith. As followers of Jesus, I invite you to give.

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY #95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious and creating God, we offer our gifts in recognition of your gifts to us. May they bear much fruit and may they be signs and symbols of Jesus in our world. Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON Mark 13: 1-8, 24-37 NLT

HYMN OF PREPARATION My Hope Is Built #368

SERMON Many Will Come Pastor Lyle

\*CLOSING HYMN I Know Whom I Have Believed #714

BENEDICTION

Take a deep breath, and know God’s spirit is in you. Breathe out, and know God’s peace is all around you. Remember this: God is in every breath, God is in every moment, and you are beloved to God. You are cared for. You matter. Give thanks to God, and give grace to one another, and live into God’s peace. Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Our Prayer List:**

Amber – breast cancer Faye Miller - immunotherapy

Jim Adams – cancer surgery March 12 Nash – leukemia (home)

Julie Baechley – Covid Art Pannebecker – heart issues

Margaret Bollinger – stroke, aneurysm People in Israel, Gaza and Ukraine

Phyllis Busey – Ephrata WellSpan Connie Rupp – hospice care at Fairmont

Carol Collemacine- sprained ankle Dr. Bill Schlorff – cancer doing well

Michelle Daniels - chemotherapy Sharon - brain cancer

Harry DeKolf – not doing well Linda Slafkovski – metastatic cancer

Donna – cancer treatable Dawn Smith – stage 4 cancer

Ed Finefrock – appointments Greg and Sue Steininger – difficult time

Sherry Gregory – stroke Roy Weik – Health Center Cornwall

Cindy Haines – home not doing well Alex Wenger- leukemia

Mary Jenks – Cancer surgery Family of Noah Wenger

Jeff Keith – stroke

**SUNDAY MORNING OFFERING**

**OFFERING AMT NEEDED EACH WEEK       $1,400**

**OFFERING March 10th $1,153**

**AMT OF OFFERING NEEDED TO     $14,000**

**AMT RECEIVED TO DATE         $23,758**

**BUDGET YTD +$9758 Attendance – 37 Folks**

**What’s happening at Wiest:**

The Chosen – video series – 1030 Sunday after church

Bible Study – Tuesdays 1000-1200.

Choir Practice – Thursdays 1200 PM

Girl Scouts – 2nd Thursday of each month

Blessings of Hope – Saturday March 23rd 1030-1100

Community Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday March 30th 2PM Schoeneck Park

Game Day – Thursday April 11th and April 25th 130-330 PM.

**Send a birthday card to Connie Rupp. Her 84th birthday is March 22nd.**

**Her address is:**

**Connie Rupp**

**Fairmont Homes**

**Room 128D**

**333 Wheatridge Dr**

**Ephrata, PA 17522**

Audio of the Sunday message is posted on our church website ([www.wiestchurch.org](http://www.wiestchurch.org)). Video on Wiest Church Facebook page

Lectionary Readings for next week: Sunday – Mark 13:24-27

Monday – Mark 13:28-31 Thursday – 1 Thessalonians 5:6-11

Tuesday – Mark 13:32-37 Friday – Romans 13:11-14

Wednesday – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-5 Saturday – Mark 14:1-2

Sermon Summary

Many Will Call

Jesus and the disciples are leaving the Temple. As they left, one of the disciples pointed out the magnificent buildings and the large stones that they were built from. Jesus responds ominously that the large buildings would be destroyed. Not one stone would be left on top of another.

After Jesus and the disciples left the Temple, they crossed over to the Mount of Olives. They were able to see the Temple from another perspective. It was then that Peter, James, John and Andrew asked Jesus when this destruction would take place and what sign would show them that these things were about to be fulfilled. Jesus warned them that many would come claiming to be the Messiah. Many would be deceived. The people would hear of wars and threats of wars. There would be earthquakes and famine. All of these things must happen, but the end was not imminent. These are the first of the birth pains. More will follow. He continues by saying that after this time, creation itself will be changed. The sun and moon will be dark, stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then the Son of Man will come on the clouds.

Apocalyptic literature is supposed to be a message of hope. There is a message of hope in the midst of this. God is present. The devastation occurring is not everlasting.

Jesus’ words are words of hope. When Jesus returns, there will be an end to violence and oppression. He will gather the chosen together. So for the time being, produce good fruit by living according to his teaching, and stay alert for his return.

Sermon Quiz

1. Jesus told his disciples that the \_\_\_\_\_\_ would be destroyed.
2. Afterward, Jesus and the disciples went to the \_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Peter, James, John and Andrew asked for a \_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ would occur.
4. Jesus warned them that \_\_\_\_ would come claiming to be the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. Jesus said that \_\_\_\_, earthquakes and famines would be the first of the \_\_\_\_ pains.
6. Jesus says that afterward \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ itself will be changed when the Son of \_\_\_\_ comes on the clouds.
7. These birth pains are the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of something \_\_\_\_.
8. Jesus preached \_\_\_\_ to give into the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ called for by others.
9. He came to \_\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people, the elect, together.
10. Jesus called the people to produce \_\_\_\_\_ fruit and stay \_\_\_\_\_\_.

Last Week’s Quiz

1. Jesus travels from place to place; mostly by walking.
2. He taught really important things: about God and his love for people.
3. Jerusalem, his final destination, was the capital of Israel and the site of the Temple
4. A scribe asked him which commandment was the most important.
5. Jesus answered by citing the Shema: love the Lord with all of yourself.
6. Jesus teaches that the Messiah will be more than a human descendant of King David.
7. Jesus shows how the Kingdom of God challenges human power structures.
8. Jesus dedicates his life to the healing of the broken and marginalized.
9. Mark makes the vital point that Jesus’ mission of healing comes directly from the God of Israel.
10. Jesus is God’s anointed Messiah, a concrete embodiment of divine love, lived out perfectly and thoroughly,