

Reflection – Luke 13:31-35

In this week's Gospel reading Jesus is warned by some Pharisees to leave the area as Herod wants to kill him. Jesus' response is perhaps predictable: he tells the Pharisees to let Herod - 'that fox' - know that he has a mission to fulfil and will not be swayed from the task by such threats. This leads into a lament about Jerusalem, a city that is the last resting place of prophets and has rejected God's efforts to love and protect. Maybe this is why the compilers of the lectionary have chosen these verses for reflection in this season of Lent. What are the motives of the key protagonists in this text, Herod, the Pharisees and Jesus? The latter is unswerving in his dedication to the task ahead, healing and restoration, while Herod and the Pharisees seek to solve the problem of Jesus by violence and deception. Jesus then talks of the city to which he must go and uses it as an exemplar of our rejection of God. We can hear the frustration in his voice, how much he wants to protect and love us. Yet he continues to be rejected.

As he does in the Magnificat Luke uses the past tense to predict the future - *'How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!'* – and indeed we cannot disagree. Those who greet Jesus *'...as the one who comes in the name of the Lord'* at his triumphal entry into Jerusalem may well be those yelling *'Crucify him!'* days later.

As we reflect on this Gospel passage today why not say a personal prayer in the quiet of your heart, letting God know that he is not rejected by you. Maybe it could become a regular part of your Lenten observance.

Fr Charles

ADVANCE NOTICE

Sunday 7th April

Annual Parochial Church Meeting, after the 10.30am Eucharist Service.

Healing Service at 4pm. Venue to be decided.

NEXT SUNDAY 24th March 2019

SERVICES	8am	Said Eucharist
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist
	4pm	Evensong

READINGS	OT	Isaiah 55: 1-9
	NT	1 Corinthians 10: 1-13
		Gospel Luke 13: 1-9



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St Thomas Exeter

Sunday 17th March 2019

The Second Sunday of Lent

Today

8am Said Eucharist

10.30am Sung Eucharist

Tuesday 19th March

7.30pm House Group Lent Course at 3
Broadway Hill

Wednesday 20th March

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

1-2pm Lent Course in the Hall. Bring own
lunch.

7.30pm PCC Meeting in the Hall

Thursday 21st March

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots with Breast
Feeding Support

Friday 22nd March

11.15am Stations of the Cross

12noon Holy Eucharist



Collect

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

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, and 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 towards 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 turtle-dove, 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.'

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 Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation so 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.

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 away from 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." '

Post Communion

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Resources are available in the
Children's Corner,
please ask for assistance.**

12hr Brexit Vigil at St David's Parish Church on Friday 22nd March from 8am to 9pm (See poster)

"This Brexit Vigil is not a time for debate, discussion, or disagreement; rather, it is an opportunity for silent and corporate prayer to unify us with one another in the LORD"

Collect for St Patrick's Day

Almighty God, who in your providence chose your servant Patrick to be the apostle of the Irish people: keep alive in us the fire of the faith he kindled and strengthen us in our pilgrimage towards the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**