

Tenth Sunday after Trinity
 Luke 19:41-48

Rev. Mark Duer
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Jesus is the ultimate Temple of God—the fulfillment of the Old Testament in human flesh....

... we must be torn down, made fit for God's visitation, and rebuilt into His temple that is the body of Christ. It's a painful and even traumatic thing to get torn down. But it is just what we need. Our own money changer attitude and desires in us must be humbled—brought to nothing, destroyed—**Matthew 9:13** Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Luke 19:41-44 **⁴¹And when [Jesus] drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴²saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³For 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 ⁴⁴and 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."**

Jerusalem didn't know the time of their visitation, nor did those who were entrusted with God's Word and tasked with teaching His people. What's more, those holy men were misleading the people entrusted to their spiritual care.

So, Jesus wept over them! Then **"He entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, saying to them, 'It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers.'"**

Then He went back to the business of "teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people were seeking to destroy him, but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were hanging on his words.

And continued His pilgrimage to Calvary from which holy mountain the cornerstone of a new temple would be hewn.

The Jewish religious leaders and their cult of followers didn't know the time of their visitation. But there were those who did. Take a lesson from a lowly virgin, despised by the world. The church's Feast of the Visitation celebrates her visit to cousin Elizabeth.

Today's Gospel reveals the visitation of God in the flesh, after he came into to Jerusalem in triumphant fashion, riding on a donkey in lowliness and humility.

Luke 1:39-45 ³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb

leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

Here we learn that knowing the time of the visitation of God is a matter of faith, not of sight. Elizabeth knows it. Mary knows it. **Luke 1:46-48** "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

And here, in Mary's words lies an important truth. Her words reveal why Jerusalem and her religious leaders with their temple cult did not know the time of their visitation.

They were about the business of righteousness epitomized by the merchants who had set up shop in the temple square. Verses 45-46, **⁴⁵And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, ⁴⁶saying to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers."**

Of course, this made them angry and all the more intent on destroying Jesus. So, the Jews asked him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?"

Knowing the intent of their heart to trap Him, Jesus answered them in **John 2:19-21** "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

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Matthew 12:6-8 ⁶I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. ⁷And if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. ⁸For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

Remember Mary's song? And "My spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant."

The Lord visits the humble. Which means those who are righteous need to be humbled. The city of Jerusalem along with her temple was destroyed. It was horrible.

But the temple was rebuilt by God and still is being rebuilt on the cornerstone that is Christ and Him crucified.

Yes, we must be torn down, made fit for God's visitation, and rebuilt into His temple that is the body of Christ. It's a painful and even traumatic thing to get torn down.

But it is just what we need. Our own money changer attitude and desires in us must be humbled—brought to nothing, destroyed—because God 'desires mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

We all need to repent and live in out baptismal promises, that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

So, God sends and keeps sending messengers to bring the two-edged sword of His Word to His people who have such a hard time receiving and believing it that they often fall prey to the wolves in sheep clothing who bring a different Gospel than Jesus Christ who was crucified, died, and after 3 days rose again to take away the sins of the world.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and who goes to the cross for you and baptizes you into His death and resurrection.

Jeremiah 8:4-11 ⁴"You shall say to them, Thus says the LORD: When men fall, do they not rise again? If one turns away, does he not return? ⁵Why then has this people turned away in perpetual backsliding? They hold fast to deceit; they refuse to return... Everyone turns to his own course, like a horse plunging headlong into battle. ⁷Even the stork in the heavens knows her times, and the turtledove, swallow, and crane keep the time of their coming, but my people know not the rules of the LORD. ⁸"How can you say, 'We are wise, and the law of the LORD is with us'? But behold, the lying pen of the scribes has made it into a lie. ⁹The wise men shall be put to shame; they shall be dismayed and taken; behold, they have rejected the word of the LORD, so what wisdom is in them?... from the least to the greatest everyone is greedy for unjust gain; from prophet to priest, everyone deals falsely. ¹¹They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace.

So, to protect us from the false prophets, from our own weak and selfish flesh, and from the very devil himself, at the time of your visitation, the Holy Spirit always points you to where He is to be found.

- Only and always through the cross and empty tomb.
- to live in the one Baptism into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. •
- in the preaching of repentance and the kingdom of heaven.
- to have us confess and be absolved.
- to draw us to the table of His very body and blood.
- by the power of the Holy Spirit at work in His body here on earth, we, who are the body of Christ on earth, the Holy Christian Church are sent forth to forgive as we have been forgiven.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen