

Zion Lutheran Church



Second Midweek Lent
February 24th , 2016

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church!

Welcome to Worship,

This evening, our sermon series of the events of the last week of Jesus' life from the Gospel of Matthew continues as we take a look at a number of parables Jesus tells to the leadership of Jerusalem. If you think that Jesus is a softie, or that he would say nice things to make friends and influence people, you might not want to listen to what you're about to hear tonight.

Jesus goes toe to toe with the people who hold all the cards in Jerusalem, people who can have him arrested and punished. Jesus tells the truth. Always. To his friends and to people who couldn't care less about him. So what does Jesus tell people who are seriously considering having him destroyed, who are living in open rebellion against God, and who use their religion to up their social and economic standing?

But what does all of this have to do with you? Plenty, it turns out. While we will look at all three of the parables Jesus tells in our text, our focus will be on the Parable of the Tenants (21:33-46).

God bless your time in worship this evening!

--Pastor Duncan McLellan

Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor

www.zlcb.org
Office Phone: 412-221-4776

Service of the Word

The Prelude

Announcements

Opening Hymn: Hymn Sing

The Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

The Absolution

The Prayers

Pastor: ...Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

The Psalm of the Day: Psalm 54

O God, save me by your name, and vindicate me by your might.

O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth.

For strangers have risen against me; ruthless men seek my life;
they do not set God before themselves. Selah

Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.

He will return the evil to my enemies; in your faithfulness put an end to them.

With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you;

I will give thanks to your name, O Lord, for it is good.

For he has delivered me from every trouble,

and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:18-22:14

In the morning, as he was returning to the city, he became hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the wayside, he went to it and found nothing on it but only leaves. And he said to it, "May no fruit ever come from you again!" And the fig tree withered at once.

When the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither at once?" And Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' it will happen. And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say,

‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ And he answered, ‘I will not;’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir;’ but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

“Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes”?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. 46 And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.”’ But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Hymn: Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow

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Sermon

The Offering

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Pastor: Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: Amen!

The Recessional: Glory Be to Jesus

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The Postlude

† *Service Participants* †

Pastor:	Rev. Duncan McLellan
Organist:	Sandra Quinlan
Elders:	Paul Klemash & Shane Bryant
Acolyte	Elder
Ushers:	Melanie Becker, Bill Becker, Shane Bryant, Michael Kozak, Vince Kimberland, Bill Koester, Loren Ludeman, Richard Quinlan
Altar Guild:	Janet, Marian Oelschlager & Sarah Ali