

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Passing on the Most Trusted Tradition: Jesus
The Razed Temple Raised

August 22, 2021



AS WE GATHER

What is your favorite family tradition? Perhaps it is an annual celebration such as Halloween, Thanksgiving, or Christmas. Perhaps it is a more common tradition—an old family recipe or a favorite game. Traditions are passed down from generation to generation. They are often wonderful and meaningful. But sometimes we pass down traditions that are not good for us or the world. The Israelites had passed down traditions related to divorce and giving that were not what God had intended. Jesus rightly criticizes such traditions. Today we consider the most trustworthy tradition that we continually pass from generation to generation: Jesus. Today we consider the temple, the place where God's people worshiped and prayed for generations. The temple in Jerusalem was destroyed more than once. Worshiping in the temple was a tradition passed down from generation to generation, but the temple was razed to the ground. In our lives, we build up our own temples, our own idols, our own human-made traditions that likewise need to be razed to the ground. But we will always find that what remains when our creations are destroyed is someone uncreated—Jesus Himself. He is the one true tradition that must be passed down by every generation.

✘ PREPARATION ✘

PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! It is good to be here in your presence Lord. Here we are at home with each other and with you. Here we discover the joy of life and the strength to live each day with praise in our hearts to you. We long to be where You are; to stand in Your very presence, and to behold You, face to face! And so, we have come to this place today; we have gathered together to worship You—to offer the praise which belongs to You alone. Bless us as we worship You together, and as we open our hearts and minds to Your presence among us. Holy One of mystery and power, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below, keeping covenant and steadfast love with all who walk before you with pure and upright hearts. Fill our lives with your glory, as you filled the temple with cloud when Solomon first brought the ark into your holy dwelling place. Give us the strength and the power to withstand the forces of evil at work in our lives and in our world. We love you, Lord, and we lift this prayer in adoration of your holy name. For You alone are God, the One in whom we trust. Amen.

WELCOME:

WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE... How beautiful are the places where you dwell, O Lord! This house cannot contain your glory; even the heavens are bursting with the goodness of your presence! We, the members of Bethel Lutheran Church are please today that you have made a choice to worship with us this afternoon. We gather in the name of the living Christ to worship God. As we worship, let us pray that He will open our eyes, that we may behold wondrous blessings out of His word. That we may share God's love and life and may we be renewed in the refreshing Spirit of the living Christ. Welcome and come into this place where we strive to reflect the love, peace, and wholeness of such a God. Let us Worship God together!

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: O Lord, I love the habitation of Your house,

People: and the place where Your glory dwells.

Pastor: Lord, restore the fortunes of Your people.

People: Let all Your people rejoice and be glad!

Pastor: From generation to generation, You are our God.

People: Your Word shall be heard among our children and our children's children.

Pastor: Let us ever share the joys of Jesus.

People: Let us spread His grace and love to all the nations.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Indeed, it is good to be here, worshiping the Lord and receiving His gifts for our forgiveness, life, and salvation. Yet, we must admit that there have been times when we have taken God for granted. There

have been times when we have created our own religious, political, and social traditions and given those human-made traditions more attention than Jesus. Still, our heavenly Father invites us to come to Him and ask for forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: we confess that we have not always looked to You for all good. We have created idols for ourselves. We confess our sins of thought, word, and deed. Forgive us, Father, for these weak failures. Renew us and lead us, so that we follow You and look to You for all good, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for You and because of Jesus forgives You all Your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. We are forgiven in Christ. He is our true inheritance forever. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

HYMN OF PRAISE “The Church Is On One Foundation” TLH 473 Sts. 1 &3

1 The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord; She is His new creation By water and the Word; From heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy Bride; With His own Blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

3 The Church shall never perish! Her dear Lord, to defend, to guide, sustain, and cherish, Is with her to the end. Tho' there be those that hate her, false sons within her pale, Against both foe and traitor she ever shall prevail.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, defend Your Church from all false teaching and error that Your faithful people may confess You to be the only true God and rejoice in Your good gifts of life and salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 29:11–19* (Isaiah's vision of God turning things upside down)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

GRADUAL *Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.*

Fear the LORD, you His saints, for those who fear Him lack nothing! Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 5:22–33* (Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Jeremiah 15:16a*

Leader: Alleluia. Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 7:1–13* (The Pharisees argue with Jesus about traditions.)

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SELECTION **Minister Terry Dale**

SERMON

SELECTION **Minister Terry Dale**

(We Bring Our Tithes and Offering To The Lord)

CREED Apostles' Creed
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

People: Hear us, Father, when we pray,
for needed help from day to day.

Leader: Heavenly Father, give us courage to speak to those family members and friends who have ceased to follow You or who have never followed You. Strengthen us for hard conversations so that we pass on the most important thing we have ever been given: Jesus Christ. Hear us, Father, when we pray,

People: **for needed help from day to day.**

Leader: Heavenly Father, You sent Your Spirit and Your Son to be our comfort in times of mourning and grief. Bring comfort to all those who are suffering at the death of loved ones, [*especially* . . .]. Point them to the hope of the resurrection and eternal life. Hear us, Father, when we pray,

People: **for needed help from day to day.**

Leader: Heavenly Father, remember all those who struggle with infertility. Comfort them in their mourning. Protect them from foolish commentary and judgment. Lead them where You would want them to go. Hear us, Father, when we pray,

People: **for needed help from day to day.**

Leader: Heavenly Father, we pray for all families, for husbands and wives, for children and grandchildren, for brothers and sisters, and every relationship. Help our earthly families to reflect the love, honor, and sacrifice of our eternal family to come. Hear us, Father, when we pray,

People: **for needed help from day to day.**

Leader: Heavenly Father, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially* . . .]. Have mercy upon them and heal them according to Your good and gracious will. Hear us, Father, when we pray,

People: for needed help from day to day.

Leader: Heavenly Father, we commend all these prayers into Your loving hands, for You live and reign with the Spirit and the Son, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

**LISTEN TO THE MESSAGE FROM GOD'S WORD.
USE THIS SHEET TO MAKE SOME PERSONAL NOTES.
GO BACK OVER THEM THROUGH THE WEEK.
THINK AND LET GOD CRYSTALIZE TRUTHS IN YOUR LIFE.**

SERMON TITLE: _____

BIBLICAL TEXT: _____

INTRODUCTION: _____

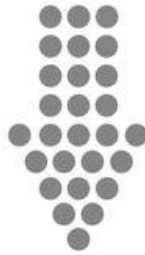
MAJOR POINTS: _____

WHAT I WILL DO AS A RESULT OF THIS MESSAGE:

“...They received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures everyday.” Acts 17:11 (NIV)

"PEOPLE
DRAW NEAR
WITH THEIR
MOUTH &
HONOR ME
WITH THEIR
LIPS, WHILE
THEIR HEARTS
ARE FAR
FROM ME"

ISAIAH 29:13



**Get
what's
in your
head
to your
heart**