

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Bible Study for Sunday, March 16, 2025

Our texts for this Sunday are:

- Luke 13:31-35
- Genesis 15:1-12 & 17-18

Read 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.” ³²He 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. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴Jerusalem, 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! ³⁵See, 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.’”

What seems odd in this passage? What questions do you have?

In Matthew this lament over Jerusalem occurs during Holy Week—after Palm Sunday and before Maundy Thursday when the die is already cast and Jesus is all but dead. Not so in Luke. This Gospel writer describes the scene much earlier in the story—in the middle of the book—when Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem. Why (and what) might Jesus be lamenting at this point in His ministry?

Why did Jesus lament over Jerusalem (verses 34-35)? What does the imagery of a hen’s wings reveal about Jesus’ heart towards people that turn away from God?

What does lamenting look like to you? What role should lamenting play in our collective lives?

When you come to church on Sunday morning, do you prefer an uplifting worship experience or one that speaks of lamenting and reminds you of the brokenness in our world?

Is communal lamenting important? What about visitors? Is lamenting a welcoming thing to new people?

The beginning of verse 35 says “See, your house is left to you.” What do you think Jesus meant by that? What might it mean for us today?

Genesis 15:1-12 & 17-18

15After 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." 2But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." 4But 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." 5He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." 6And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. 7Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." 8But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" 9He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." 10He 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. 11And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. 12As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. 17When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. 18On 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

What do you want to know about this text? If you had to describe it in one sentence...what would it be?

What was Abram lamenting and what was he afraid of?

What was the Lord's response to Abram's fear? What can we *learn* from that response to Abram's fear?

"Fear not" appears over 200 times in the Bible. What does that say about us and what might that say about the kind of relationship that God desires to have with us?

How might fear and lamenting be intertwined? What might this text call us to do in the face of both?