

On Monday, we found Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem doing what rarely Jesus does...getting angry. The temple has been turned into a marketplace and the "price gouging" is in full swing. With no doubt, a saddened, as well as angry heart, Jesus throws the vendors' tables out the door. Then, with the love of our Lord, he offers mercy and reminds all that God's house is a house of prayer. Today, as we move one day closer toward the resurrection of our Lord, we are given this opportunity to imagine the sights, sounds, feels, tastes, and smells as Jesus walked this road to everlasting life for us. It was a hard walk, hard week; but in faith, Jesus kept moving forward for us. This week let's keep walking with him!

TUESDAY: SCRIPTURE: John 12:20-26

That day, the lame and blind came to Jesus in the Temple, and he healed them. The scribes and Pharisees who had been disturbed by Jesus' actions on Sunday and Monday were now infuriated because of his popularity with the people. They began to talk seriously among themselves of how they might destroy him. And on Tuesday, they challenged his authority in the Temple. It was a day of continual questions, with answers or stories that were so clear even a child could understand them. Perhaps it was a day when the disciples sensed the risk of discipleship, and perhaps the beginning of danger.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness; in your great compassion, hear my prayers.

I pray for the whole church, all leaders and ministers, and all the holy people of God. Wash us through and through, and cleanse us from our sin.

I pray for our nation, for all the nations of the earth, and for all who govern and judge. Purge us from our sin, and we shall be pure.

I pray for those who hunger, those who thirst, those who cry out for justice, those who live under the threat of terror, and those without a place to lay their head. Make them hearers of joy and gladness, that those who are broken may rejoice.

I pray for those who are ill, those in pain, those under stress, and those who are lonely. Give them the joy of your saving help and sustain them with your bountiful Spirit.

In this Holy Week, I pray for all to be given the grace and strength to repent and grow closer to you, O God. Create in us clean hearts and renew a right spirit within us.

I pray for those who have died, and who have entered into the land of eternal light and your abiding peace. Cast them not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from them.

Lord Jesus, you taught your disciples that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit; as we prepare our hearts to remember your death and resurrection, grant us the strength and wisdom to serve and follow you, this day and always. Lord, speak to me; I am ready to listen. Amen.

May the love of God enfold us. The peace of Christ surround us. The presence and comfort of the Spirit be in and among us. Amen

Pastor Sherry