

**MORNING PRAYER
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
03.13.22**

Solomon built a magnificent Temple to the Lord, and, though it was rebuilt twice in the centuries after, this was the place where God was worshiped by His people, from that day until the coming of Christ. Not only was it the place where sacrifices were offered, but it served also as a very visible symbol of the eternal Throne of God in Heaven, and of God's presence in the midst of His people. St. Paul, in fact, looked at the people of the Church to which he was writing, and, as he called them to a life of holiness, he asked,

"Know ye not, that YE are the temple of the Holy Ghost?"

Our Old Testament Lesson today is a portion of the prayer that Solomon prayed at its dedication.

As we begin Lent, it might be good to pay attention to these words:

"What prayer and supplication so ever be made by any man, or by all thy people Israel, which shall know every man the plague of his own heart, and spread forth his hands toward this house: Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive"

That's what Lent is about: self-examination, each of us searching our souls that we might know the plague in our own hearts, and knowing that plague, bring it to the Lord for forgiveness and healing.

And what are we to look for in that deep examination?

St. Paul, in his letter to the Colossians, gives us some guidelines to places we often neglect, while we are concentrating on our religious duties, and on those gross and obvious sins that we find..

He calls us to examine and change something none of us really want to change: our **attitudes**, he calls us to

***"Put on ...
mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness,
longsuffering;***

Are we more interested in receiving justice, or in giving mercy?

Are we harsh and hurtful in our dealings with others, or do we practice respect and gentleness?

Are we always looking to get credit goodness, or would we rather lift up someone else, even if it hurts us?

Are we really patient in our dealings?

We all fail in some or all of these ways.

We are guilty. We need to admit it.

We need to cry out for forgiveness and for God's help to put them on.

He continues:

"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

How many hurts and grudges are we holding on to right now?

Look deep. You will find them, right where you've stored them, just as every one of us will.

That has to change.

"And above all these things

(continues the Apostle)

put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

Charity, agape love, the kind of love that is so much more than feeling, the kind of love that affects what we do, even when we

don't want it to, the kind of real love that only comes by conscious decision, that comes whether it feels good or not. Without that, nothing matters, and it all falls apart.

Put on charity, only so can ***"... the peace of God rule in your hearts,"***

So let this Lent be a time of deep self-examination, of deep repentance, of real change.

Let it be a time of prayer and worship and of study, and finally, in St. Paul's words:

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

May He so guide us in these weeks, that we may truly know Him in His Passion and resurrection, unto eternal life.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, grant that we may have knowledge of our sins and wickedness, that we may turn from them unto thy divine mercy, and that, by the power of Thy Holy Spirit, we may know thy forgiveness, through the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

Amen.

**Written by: The Rev'd Ed Pacht
Presented by: Ted Randall, Lay Reader**