

Lector

A reading from the book of Jeremiah

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

[DO NOT LEAVE. REMAIN TO
READ THE RESPONSE.]

The Response

Canticle 16. Luke 1: 68 – 79

Lector and the People will read today's Canticle responsively at the half-verse.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;*
Who has come to the Lord's people and set them free.

Who has raised up for us a mighty savior,*
born of the house of his servant David.

Through God's holy prophets God promised of old,
that God would save us from our enemies,*
from the hands of all who hate us.

God promised to show mercy to our ancestors*
and to remember the holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham,*
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship God without fear, *
holy and righteous in God's sight
all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,*

for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

To give God's people knowledge of salvation*
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God*
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow
of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: **
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.

The Lesson from the Epistles:

Colossians 1:11–20

Lector:

A reading from the second letter to the Colossians

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from the Lord's glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to God, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. The Lord has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of God's beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The Savior is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers-- all things have been created through him and for him. Jesus himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in Jesus all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Jesus God was pleased to

reconcile to God's self all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of the cross.

The Word of the Lord.

The Prayers of the People

A moment of silence begins this time of prayer.

Intercessor

Let us pray.

God of mercy, we give thanks for your guidance in our common life; help us to discern your will as members of the living Body of Christ.

People **Help us, O God, to be the Beloved Community.**

Intercessor

May you so fill our lives that we may speak truth and bring about healing in the world by building trust.

People **Fill us O God, with kindness and gentleness toward each other.**

Intercessor

We give thanks for the Body in which we all are truly welcomed into transformation.

We pray that you will move us to recognize spiritual need, and practice welcome and healing.

People **Move us, O God, to share the truth of your love.**

Intercessor

We give thanks for all ministers, all bishops, priests, deacons; and all ministers through their baptism who serve God in the church.

People **Guide us, O God, to call and cultivate the gifts in each member of the Body.**

Intercessor

We ask that you tend and care for all those in governance around the church and in the world; may leaders seek harmony rather than power, leading with wisdom on behalf of a future for all creatures that is sustainable, grace-filled, holy, and just.

People **Tend us, O God, and call us to tend your Creation.**

Intercessor

We give thanks to you God, Holy Spirit, for the comfort you provide to those suffering from sickness, financial stress, underemployment, housing challenges, prejudice, or any kind of trouble or injustice. When we or they do not find words to pray, may the Holy Spirit intercede with sighs that transcend all words. Especially, **Claire wright, Tony and Bridget, Marjorie Holland, Gia Pacheco, Kathy Runyeon, Ken Spira, Rita Spira, Linda Mickelson, Irene Z, Pat G., Shannon Walker, members of the Stellamos Youth Chorus, the children in the Kumu Ola youth choir, Jenny Cornell, Karina, Ellen Berning, Jim Redman, Alejandro Mejí, Joanne Runyeon, Eva Mejía, Wendy**

Dickman, Jerry Berning, David Elms, Joan Brumleve , and those we name in our hearts silently or aloud.

Intercessor. And we ask you....
People **Heal us, O God as we pray.**

Intercessor
Gracious God, we ask for your comfort as we grieve the absence from among us of our beloved departed ones, those who have returned to you, as we aspire to do, residing with all the company of heaven. Especially **Joe Mickelson, Jeannie & Peter Ferber, Nancy Stevens**, and those within our hearts we name silently or aloud.

Intercessor And we ask you...
People **Comfort us, O God, as we pray.**

Intercessor
God of glory, we receive your Holy Spirit, moving among us, calling us to follow Jesus in the world. Help us to listen for your voice; as members of the living Body of Christ, the Beloved Community.
People **Hear us, O God, to discern your will.**

Celebrant response—**[REMAIN UNTIL CELEBRANT FINISHES]**