

There's a Psalm for This

This Sunday is one of my favorites in the church year, because it's a different kind of Sunday that doesn't always gets talked about. There is another Sunday like it, in Advent, and they both have similar purposes: to add a bit of rejoicing in the midst of a penitential season.

Like Gaudete Sunday (the 3rd Sunday of Advent), Laetare Sunday (the 4th Sunday in Lent) is meant to use rose-colored paraments and stoles, the result of mixing purple and white dye together to "relax" the dye in the same way these Sundays "relax" the time of preparation before the major holidays of Christmas and Easter. We don't really follow this tradition any more (it's just not generally worth the expense for churches to have rose-colored items for two Sundays a year), nor do we follow some of the other traditions, like restoring flowers to the altar (we never take them away), allowing the organ to be played as a solo instrument (traditionally the organ is only used conservatively as an accompanying instrument during Lent), and servants are released from service for the day in order to visit their mothers (I think the reason for us not doing this one is a bit obvious.)

The name "Laetare" comes from the Latin translation of Isaiah 66:10, the introit song for the day. "Celebrate with Jerusalem; be happy with her, all you who love her!" The second half of the introit is Psalm 122, and here it is today.

Psalm 122 (CEB)

A pilgrimage song. Of David.

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let's go to the Lord's house!"
Now our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem!

Jerusalem is built like a city joined together in unity.
That is where the tribes go up—the Lord's tribes!
It is the law for Israel to give thanks there to the Lord's name,
because the thrones of justice are there—the thrones of the house of David!

Pray that Jerusalem has peace: "Let those who love you have rest.
Let there be peace on your walls; let there be rest on your fortifications."
For the sake of my family and friends, I say, "Peace be with you, Jerusalem."
For the sake of the Lord our God's house I will pray for your good.

I'm sure you've noticed a theme of rejoicing in these two passages, and that's part of why I love this day so much. It's a taste of joy and hope in the midst of a Lenten season filled with repentance, confession, and general drear regarding our sin.

But then, roughly halfway through Lent, Laetare Sunday pops in and says, "I know it's been a long season of mourning and suffering, but there's hope. Easter is right around the corner. We're almost there. Keep it up. You can do it."

Especially this year, as it was on this Sunday last year that we all realized this pandemic is as serious as it is, it's nice to have that reminder: it's almost over; keep it up; you can do it.

Pastor Mike Galica

Holy Cross Announcements

We're in the **Season of Lent**, a time of repentant preparation as we turn with Jesus toward Jerusalem and the cross, building awareness of our sin and inevitable death so that the defeat of sin and death through the cross and empty tomb means that much more to us. Our paraments are purple, the color of royalty, to remind us of the mocking Jesus suffered during his passion, but also of the truth behind his "crime": The King of the Jews.

Holy Week Services for this year are: **Maundy Thursday** – April 1, 7 PM; **Good Friday** – April 2, 8 PM. Both of these services will also be live-streamed on YouTube and the church website.



The **Bear River Health Department** has begun COVID-19 vaccinations for those over 50 and those over 16 with underlying medical conditions. For more information and to check availability, visit <https://brhd.org/covid-19-vaccine-information/>

Our state and local health departments' COVID-19 Transmission Level for our county is "Medium". This means that we will be now offering in-person worship again! Please review the Holy Cross COVID-19 plan on our website to review the requests and requirements for meeting together. Most importantly, wear a mask and please remember that available space is limited due to social distancing! Please let Pastor Mike know if you are planning to attend in-person.

If you're a Thrivent member, you may have **Thrivent Choice Dollars** to distribute! Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-847-4836 to find out if you are eligible.

If, while we are not meeting together, you want to still give an offering to the church, you can mail it to PO Box 732, Brigham City UT, 84302. The post office box gets checked regularly and your giving will be secure.

Sunday School for children is recessed. Adult Sunday is posted to YouTube on Sunday mornings.

Holy Cross Quilters will continue refraining from meeting.

This Week's Readings:

4th Sunday in Lent – Rich Man and Lazarus – Psalm 41; Luke 16:19-31

Next Week's Readings:

5th Sunday in Lent – *Zacchaeus* – Psalm 84; Luke 18:31-19:10

Prayer List

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." — Phil 4:6

Keep the following in your prayers

Jeff & Darlene Hoedt, for safe travels to visit family.

Brian Hohn, friend of Bob Kosbab, with esophageal cancer.

Sherri Rackham recovering after a dog bite.

Our vulnerable populations, especially those with underlying health conditions, the homeless, and those lacking access to proper medical care in this time.

Nora Greer, for healing.

Trudee Klein, friend of Deborah Kay, for healing from cancer.

Tom & Jeanette Croft, friend of Kosbabs, for healing.

Abby Rasmussen and family, friends of Kosbabs, as she struggles with cystic fibrosis.

John Buist, our custodian, for continued health problems.

Lynne, Robert Quick's wife, with health issues.

Aleasa, Robert Quick's daughter, with health issues.

Mark Sparkman, Quick's son-in-law, recurring health problems.

Gloria Perry, for healing from health problems.

Box Elder County Jail Ministry, that the inmates may respond to the Gospel.

Deborah Kay Hansen, prayers for healing from recurring health problems.

Give thanks to God

Bill Galica, Pastor Mike's uncle, has recovered well!

Kyra, Quick's granddaughter, is doing much better and is back to work.

Robert Quick, is doing better.

Chris, Ashley, and family, Jeff Hoedt's son and daughter-in-law, and newborn **Adelynn!**

Amy, Michelle's sister, and newborn **Lyla!**

Bryce and Emily Herman and newborn daughter, nephew & family of the Kosbabs, have recovered well.

Claudia Long, Andrea's mom, is doing much better but still needs prayer for strength and health.

Tripp, newborn son of Lexa and Kyler, is off oxygen and doing much better.

Keep those in prayer who are in harm's way

Medical professionals and all who are continuing to work during this pandemic.

Braxton Jeppsen, serving in the US Navy.

Let Pastor Mike know if there are any petitions you wish to add to our Prayer List. If you added someone to the prayer list, please update us on how they are doing! We love to celebrate praises as well as petitions. Out of concern for people's privacy, we haven't been adding specific prayers to our church live-stream, but we continue to pray for all those needs and concerns.