

There's a Psalm for This

Psalm 137 is rather infamous. It's a psalm of raw loss and yearning, a people who cry out because everything they new is gone. It's a violent psalm, ending on a plea for destruction. Psalm 137 is typically read in Judaism on *Tisha B'Av*, the day which remembers several traumatic and disastrous events in the history of God's people. It's a song of raw emotion, pain, and loss – with all the rashness and anger that comes with it. It may even be the song sung in response to the order from the Babylonians: “Sing us a song about Zion!” and in turn proclaiming a curse on the ones who took everything away.

Psalm 137 (CEB)

Alongside Babylon's streams, there we sat down, crying because we remembered Zion.
We hung our lyres up in the trees there because that's where our captors asked us to sing;
our tormentors requested songs of joy: “Sing us a song about Zion!” they said.
But how could we possibly sing the Lord's song on foreign soil?

Jerusalem! If I forget you, let my strong hand wither!
Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth if I don't remember you,
if I don't make Jerusalem my greatest joy.

Lord, remember what the Edomites did on Jerusalem's dark day:
“Rip it down, rip it down! All the way to its foundations!” they yelled.
Daughter Babylon, you destroyer,
a blessing on the one who pays you back the very deed you did to us!
A blessing on the one who seizes your children and smashes them against the rock!

As we've seen while reading Revelation, and so aptly summed up by the Masked Man in *The Princess Bride*, “Life is pain, highness. Anyone who says differently is selling something.” And yet, I take odd comfort in reading psalms like this, knowing that I can bring that pain to God. This and many other psalms remind me that even when I'm angry – especially when I'm angry – my prayer can be angry too. I can let go of that anger toward God, because God can take it.

Too often, I think we get lost in feeling that we're supposed to act a certain way toward God, or that we can't “be ourselves” to God. But Psalm 137 and others like it show that God wants us to be raw and “uncouth” if we need to be, as part of the process of dealing with the pain, loss, and tragedy of our world.

Yes, we certainly trust in the certain hope of resurrection to a world in which there will never be pain, loss, or tragedy again; but until then, I'm comforted in knowing that God knows life this side of that renewed creation contains suffering, and that God suffers with me when I experience suffering.

Pastor Mike Galica

Holy Cross Announcements

We're in the **Season after Pentecost**, a time in the church year of studying the Scriptures in order to learn to follow Jesus more closely. Our paraments are green to symbolize growing more Christ-like each day.

The **Bear River Health Department** is administering COVID-19 vaccinations to all those over 12! For more information and to check availability, visit <https://brhd.org/covid-19-vaccine-information/>

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 you want to give an offering to the church but are either unable to or don't feel comfortable with attending in person, 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 School will resume online September 19.

Holy Cross Quilters will continue refraining from meeting.

This Week's Readings:

14th Sunday after Pentecost – *Revelation: The Beasts* – Revelation 13:1-18; John 12:23-36

Next Week's Readings:

15th Sunday after Pentecost – *Revelation: Promise Fulfilled* –

Revelation 21:1-6,22:1-5; John 16:20-28,33



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

Michelle Galica, recovering from surgery.

Holly, Bob Kosbab's cousin's daughter, hospitalized with COVID-19.

Bob Quick, for healing

Ann, Jeff Hoedt's daughter, **and her baby due in October**. Ann has gestational diabetes.

Matt Long, Andrea's brother, for healing and a successful surgery.

Matt, Deborah Kay's cousin, for healing.

Tyson, Michelle's dad's friend's son, for mental health.

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

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.

Gloria Perry, for healing from health problems.

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

Give thanks to God

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

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 no longer speak people's names in the worship service, but we continue to pray for all their needs and concerns.