

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

CRUCIFIX

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Introducing the Gospel

Prediction of the passion in Jerusalem (Luke 13: 31-35)

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus' journey to Jerusalem has particular power and poignancy as the place in which he will meet his death. In this passage Jesus sets his own impending death in the context of the prophets who have been killed in Jerusalem. There is also an elliptical reference to the third day on which Jesus finishes his work. The third day is the day of resurrection.

The image to stimulate reflection on the prediction of Jesus' death in Jerusalem is *crucifix*.

Core extract from the Gospel (Luke 13: 31-33; for reflection throughout the week)

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to Jesus,
'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.'
He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me,
"Listen, I am casting out demons
and performing cures today and tomorrow,
and on the third day I finish my work.
Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way,
because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem."'

Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)

Lord Jesus Christ,
for you the cross of shame
became the cross of glory.
Give us grace to follow in the way of the cross,
that we may share in your resurrection life;
for your name's sake.
Amen.

READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Luke 13: 31-35

The lament over Jerusalem

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."'

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME

Dwelling with the text (Luke 13: 31-35)

Begin to explore how Luke focuses the prediction of Jesus' death in Jerusalem by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

Thinking and talking

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- How do you interpret the motivation of the Pharisees?
- What does the image of Herod as a fox say to you?
- How do you respond to Jesus' image of a hen?
- What is the significance of 'Blessed is the one ...'?
- What does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

Explore the overlap with Matthew and the material that is unique to Luke.

- Matthew 23: 37-39

Explore Luke's predictions of Jesus' death

- Luke 9: 22
- Luke 17: 25
- Luke 22: 37
- Luke 24: 7

Explore the reference to the future time.

- Luke 19: 29-38

Trace the origin of this salutation to the Psalms.

- Psalm 118: 26

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C) Sunday 16 March 2025

Compare the imagery in Hosea.

- Hosea 11: 1-4

Exploring online

Widen your exploration of Luke's prediction of Jesus' death in Jerusalem by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- As a hen gathers her chicks
- Jerusalem thou that killest the prophets
- Crucifix

Drawing on experience

The image to stimulate reflection on Luke's account of the prediction of Jesus' death in Jerusalem is *crucifix*. Draw on your own experience of the crucifix. For example:

- Where have you seen a crucifix that caught your attention?
- The crucifix shows Jesus on the cross. How does that make you feel?
- How do you feel about wearing a crucifix necklace, pendant, or lapel badge?

What have you learned about the crucifix?

Creating and making

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by Luke's account of the prediction of Jesus' death in Jerusalem or by the image of the crucifix.

- Create a collage showing different crucifixes.
- Make a poster of the hen gathering her chicks with a crucifix in the background.
- Display the collection of texts from Luke concerning the prediction of Jesus' death in Jerusalem.
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of Luke's prediction of Jesus' death in Jerusalem or on the image of the crucifix.



**Liverpool
Cathedral**

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales.



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