

**Greetings from God the Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and from the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Sermon Title – Jesus gathers, rejected, but continues

Luke 13:31-35

The Gospel text for today shows you that Jesus is determined to accomplish the salvation plan for you and for all of mankind. Jesus wants to gather the children of Israel. ***O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!*** Jesus knew that the people of Israel would not accept Him. He knew that the world would not accept Him as the Savior of the world. Jesus knew that He was heading to the cross but He wanted to do this for you and for all mankind, to be the ransom for your sins and for all sins. Jesus expressed His love toward the rejecting Israelites and to the world, for Jesus speaks about gathering the children as the hen gathers her brood under her wing. Under the His wing is a safe place where the children of God would find forgiveness from their sins and

the burdens of the world. Where Jesus would sustains them and protect them.

Jesus greaves when Israel was not willing to be gathered by Him. We know that Jesus wept over Jerusalem because of their refusal to believe Him. He greaves when others today are called to be gathered by His Word but are not willing to believe in Him. The main theme of this passage is Jesus wants all sinners, including the Israelites who reject him, to be gathered by Him to be forgiven and saved from their sins, death and the devil. For the unbeliever, they need to stop rejecting God's Word and allow the Holy Spirit to grab them and give them faith in Jesus Christ.

Now all believers in Christ are the new Israel. You are part of the New Testament Israel by your baptism, just as now Joshua is a child of God and an heir to the kingdom of God. God has given this to Joshua in his baptism today. As the New Testament Israel, you also need to take warning from Jesus' statement of wanting to gather you under His wings but you are not willing to be gathered. For this gathering under His wing can also be understood in this way: that you sometimes do not allow Jesus to gather **you** under His wing to forgive, save, protect and uphold you. You are sometimes like the little chick running around in a sin, away from the

mother hen, Jesus. While you are playing in your sin, you are unaware of the hawk, the devil, circling high above you in the air waiting to grab on to you and take you away from Jesus. Maybe the sin is your pride, where your pride convinces you that you are good enough by your works can save yourself – or at least that you really aren't so bad that you need saving. You think sometimes that you can take care of the problem yourself. Or, you have a sin that you want to keep as your "pet" sin. Jesus wants to gather you under His wing to forgive you of that sin, take care of you and comfort you and uphold you. To keep a sin as a "pet" sin could allow the sin to become the number one "thing" in your life. When you let it become the driving force in your life, you are putting yourself in danger of removing yourself from Christ's care and safety.

No matter how far you wander from Jesus, Jesus is determined to continue trying to gather you to Himself. Jesus was going to complete the Salvation Plan laid out before the creation of the world for you, for all. For you read in Luke 13:32-34 ***And he said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a***

***prophet should perish away from Jerusalem 'O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!***

Jesus is warned by the Pharisees that Herod wanted to kill Jesus. Or, perhaps the Pharisees simply wanted Jesus to leave their area. Either reason, Jesus is determined to complete His ministry. He is going to keep on healing individuals as He makes His way to Jerusalem and His Cross at the time appointed by God Himself."In other words, Jesus is saying: "You the Pharisees, and, or, Herod will not stop me and, or disrupt the purpose for which I came. I came to proclaim the Good News and to be the Lamb of God who will take away the sins of the world. The Salvation Plan of the Lord will be accomplished and fulfilled according to God the Father's Will. Death, the devil and this world cannot stop it or prevail against it, for I will be and am victorious over them for you and for all. It is the only way that you might be saved. I must complete this and go to the cross for you!"

Jesus continues to reach out to the Jews of His time and continues to reach out to all. ***Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!' "*** I will forsake you for a little while, to abandon you, I will seem to be against you. Hopefully this will draw you to Myself. You need Me as well as

the Gentiles need Me, for all have fallen short of the Glory of God. I know that I will suffer, you will want to kill me and you will be permitted to kill me. Jesus goes willingly, under His permission and His will, to the cross, out of love, for the Jews of His time, for you and for all of mankind, past, present and future generations. Christ went to the cross when the world was still an enemy of God. **“While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”** (Romans 5:8), out of love He died for you. Out of love, He continues seeking you when you are not under His wing of salvation and forgiveness. He continuously offers His forgiveness to you.

God calls and gathers you each Sunday with His Forgiveness of Sins, God’s Word and His Holy Sacraments. Each Sunday you are gathered by God, so that He may strengthen and sustain your faith that He has given to you and Joshua in Holy Baptism. He feeds you with His Words. He feeds the confirmed members with His Body and Blood in, with and under the bread and wine in His Holy Communion. Jesus continues to gather you to protect you, and uphold you in times of trouble. He does this willingly and out of love for you; He does this freely. He continues to gather you until the time He will call you to Himself in heaven.

And may the peace of God, which is beyond all human comprehension,  
keep your hearts and minds through your faith in Christ Jesus. Amen