***Monday: Jesus at the Temple***

**Luke 19:45-48 April 6, 2020**

***“My house will be a house of prayer . . . .”*Luke 19:45**

**Reading: Luke 19:45-48**

**Reflecting:**

Jesus entered the temple, Herod’s gift to the Jewish people and monument to himself, immediately upon entering in Jerusalem and participating in ritual purification. Driving out those who cluttered the outer courts and took advantage of arriving pilgrims, Jesus quotes from Deuteronomy 56:7, “My house will be a house of prayer for the nations.” It wasn’t as much the buying and selling as much as the fact that its presence in the gentiles’ courts would keep you and me from encountering God there. Jesus wants to be sure that there is room for even us gentiles in Jerusalem for Holy Week.

How has Jesus prepared my Jerusalem for encountering God this Holy Week?

What might be keeping me from sitting at Jesus’ feet and “hanging on his words”?

**Praying: Psalm 118**

 *Open for me the gates of righteousness. I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.
This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter.
I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.* Psalm 118:19-21

This is the last stanza of this Messianic Psalm the ordered our worship in Palm Sunday. The psalmist invites us to enter into the gates of righteousness because this is the moment of salvation, the very *kairos* moment that Jesus himself mentions in Luke 19:44. Let’s begin our week with a prayer of thanksgiving and praise – the Messiah really is waiting for us inside these gates!

*Father, thank you for opening the gates, for clearing the clutter that would keep us from meeting Jesus our Messiah this week. We praise you for the work of Holy Week which began with Jesus making room for us in the courts of the righteous and ended with him becoming our salvation.*

*Father, we confess that we are too often the “sellers” who get in the way, so we ask for Jesus’ “driving out” work in our lives this week. Allow us to be again your “house of prayer” for our community and world.*