



## WEPC Lectionary Project: *Union with Christ*

West End Presbyterian Church is using the Scripture readings recommended by the Revised Common Lectionary as a framework for our corporate worship and our personal and family devotion. This project is part of WEPC's 25th Anniversary Year and will run from December 2018 through November 2019. The Lectionary gives us access to the whole counsel of Scripture and these texts are a means for us to grow in our understanding of our union with Christ.

To learn more and subscribe to a daily email of Daily Scripture Readings, visit [www.wepc.org/lectionary](http://www.wepc.org/lectionary).

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### Sunday, April 7, 2019

*The Fifth Sunday in Lent*

[Isaiah 43:16-21](#) *A Way in the Sea*

[Psalm 126](#) *Restore Our Fortunes, O LORD*

[Philippians 3:4b-14](#) *Because Christ has Made Me His Own*

[John 12:1-8](#) *Anointed for Burial*

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### Monday, April 8

[Psalm 20](#) *The LORD Saves His Anointed*

[Exodus 40:1-15](#) *Their Anointing Shall Admit Them*

[Hebrews 10:19-25](#) *A Great Priest*

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### Tuesday, April 9

[Psalm 20](#) *The LORD Saves His Anointed*

[Judges 9:7-15](#) *Anointing the Bramble*

[I John 2:18-28](#) *Anointed by the Holy One*

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### Wednesday, April 10

[Psalm 20](#) *The LORD Saves His Anointed*

[Habakkuk 3:2-15](#) *The Salvation of Your Anointed*

[Luke 18:31-34](#) *They Understood None of These Things*

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### Thursday, April 11

[Psalm 31:9-16](#) *I Have Become Like a Broken Vessel*

[Isaiah 53:10-12](#) *He Shall Bear Their Iniquities*

[Hebrews 2:1-9](#) *He Bore the Sin of Many*

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### Friday, April 12

[Psalm 31:9-16](#) *I Have Become Like a Broken Vessel*

[Isaiah 54:9-10](#) *Compassion on You*

[Hebrews 2:10-18](#) *Made Like His Brothers in Every Respect*

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### Saturday, April 13

[Psalm 31:9-16](#) *I Have Become Like a Broken Vessel*

[Leviticus 23:1-8](#) *Appointed Feasts*

[Luke 22:1-13](#) *They Prepared the Passover*

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## **Restore**

*This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Psalm 126](#).*

<sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup> Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;

then they said among the nations,  
“The LORD has done great things for them.”

<sup>3</sup> The LORD has done great things for us;  
we are glad.

<sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like streams in the Negeb!

<sup>5</sup> Those who sow in tears  
shall reap with shouts of joy!

<sup>6</sup> He who goes out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
bringing his sheaves with him.

- We don't fully know the context of Psalm 126. It could be written about deliverance from captivity, siege, famine, or any number of troubles. It really is paradigm for much of the life of God's people.
- The Psalm is divided into two parts: Joy Remembered (1-3) & Joy Requested in Hope (4-6)
- Joy Remembered
  - Memory of the Lord's grace, goodness and mercy are always drivers of joy. Particularly, memories of how we have been delivered. When this is fresh on our minds and hearts, nothing is sweeter.
  - The nations hear the joy in the laughter of God's people and they, too, acknowledge that God has done great things for us.
  - But because we live in a fallen world, this joy will be difficult to maintain until we are in glory.
- Joy requested in hope
  - Two kinds of restoration are asked for here: An instantaneous blessing that brings immediate results, and harvest from long, slow, faithful sowing.
- Sowing and reaping are frequent metaphors in the Bible.
  - The Parable of the Sower ([Mark 4:1-20](#))
  - “You shall reap what you sow” ([Galatians 6:7-9](#))
  - “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” ([John 12:24](#))
  - “So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.” ([1 Corinthians 15:42-44](#))
- Occasionally blessing comes out of nowhere, but often, joy only comes after hard work and much pain and sadness...
- There is no resurrection without death.
- We are frequently troubled by thoughts of despair; for what human being is there who could be without this thought: “What if God did not want you to be saved?” What is God really not for me? But we are taught that in this conflict we must hold fast to the promise given us in the Gospel, which is sure and clear. But when this happens, Satan does not cease immediately but keeps crying out in your heart that you are not worthy of this promise.
- Of course not. Therefore I take refuge in His promise. And I keep sowing, in hope.
- Lent is for Easter. We're going with Jesus to the cross not as a destination in itself, but because that way lies redemption and resurrection. Jesus redeems. Jesus rises from the dead. And we get life in and through Him. The joyful harvest is sure because the promise is sure.

