

Tuesday, December 19th

LILLIAN TRASHER

MISSIONARY IN EGYPT, 1961

COLLECT: (*Remain Standing*)

God, whose everlasting arms support the universe: We thank you for moving the heart of Lillian Trasher to heroic hospitality on behalf of orphaned children in great need, and we pray that we also may find our hearts awakened and our compassion stirred to care for your little ones, through the example of our Savior Jesus Christ and by the energy of your Holy Spirit, who broods over the world like a mother over her children; for they live and reign with you, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Zechariah 2:1-13 (*Please be seated*)

Reader: A reading from the book of Zechariah.

I looked up and saw a man with a measuring line in his hand. Then I asked, 'Where are you going?' He answered me, 'To measure Jerusalem, to see what is its width and what is its length.' Then the angel who talked with me came forward, and another angel came forward to meet him, and said to him, 'Run, say to that young man: Jerusalem shall be inhabited like villages without walls, because of the multitude of people and animals in it. For I will be a wall of fire all round it, says the Lord, and I will be the glory within it.'

Up, up! Flee from the land of the north, says the Lord; for I have spread you abroad like the four winds of heaven, says the Lord. Up! Escape to Zion, you that live with daughter Babylon. For thus said the

Lord of hosts (after his glory sent me) regarding the nations that plundered you: Truly, one who touches you touches the apple of my eye. See now, I am going to raise my hand against them, and they shall become plunder for their own slaves. Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent me. Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the Lord. Many nations shall join themselves to the Lord on that day, and shall be my people; and I will dwell in your midst. And you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you. The Lord will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem.

Be silent, all people, before the Lord; for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm

Reader: Let us pray together the words of **Psalm 45**.

1 My heart is stirring with a noble song;
let me recite what I have fashioned for the
king; *
my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled
writer.

2 You are the fairest of men; *
grace flows from your lips,
because God has blessed you for ever.

3 Strap your sword upon your thigh, O
mighty warrior, *
in your pride and in your majesty.

4 Ride out and conquer in the cause of
truth *
and for the sake of justice.

5 Your right hand will show you
marvelous things; *
your arrows are very sharp, O mighty
warrior.

6 The peoples are falling at your feet, *
and the king's enemies are losing heart.

7 Your throne, O God, endures for ever and
ever, *
a scepter of righteousness is the scepter
of your kingdom;
you love righteousness and hate iniquity.

8 Therefore God, your God, has anointed
you *
with the oil of gladness above your
fellows.

9 All your garments are fragrant with
myrrh, aloes, and cassia, *
and the music of strings from ivory
palaces makes you glad.

10 Kings' daughters stand among the

ladies of the court; *
on your right hand is the queen,
adorned with the gold of Ophir.

11 "Hear, O daughter; consider and listen
closely; *
forget your people and your father's
house.

12 The king will have pleasure in your
beauty; *
he is your master; therefore do him
honor.

13 The people of Tyre are here with a gift;
*
the rich among the people seek your
favor."

14 All glorious is the princess as she
enters; *
her gown is cloth-of-gold.

15 In embroidered apparel she is brought
to the king; *
after her the bridesmaids follow in
procession.

16 With joy and gladness they are
brought, *
and enter into the palace of the king.

17 "In place of fathers, O king, you shall
have sons; *
you shall make them princes over all the
earth.

18 I will make your name to be
remembered
from one generation to another; *
therefore nations will praise you for ever
and ever."

Revelation 3:14-22 *(Please be seated)*

Reader: A reading from the book of Revelation.

'And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin of God's creation:

'I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. For you say, "I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing." You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich; and white robes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen; and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.'

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 24:32-44 *(Please stand as you are able)*

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Deacon or Priest: The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, Lord Christ**