***Lamentationes Ieremiae* English Texts**

**Holy Thursday**

***Lectio I (Lam 1:1-3)***

The beginning of the Lamentation of Jeremiah the Prophet.

Aleph.

How solitary sits the city,

once filled with people.

She who was great among the nations

is now like a widow.

Once a princess among the provinces,

now a toiling slave.

Beth.

She weeps incessantly in the night,

her cheeks damp with tears.

She has no one to comfort her

from all her lovers;

Her friends have all betrayed her,

and become her enemies.

Ghimel.

Judah has gone into exile,

after oppression and harsh labor;

She dwells among the nations,

yet finds no rest:

All her pursuers overtake her

in the narrow straits.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem,

return to the Lord your God!

***Lectio II (Lam 1:4-6)***

Daleth.

The roads to Zion mourn,

empty of pilgrims to her feasts.

All her gateways are desolate,

her priests groan,

Her young women grieve;

her lot is bitter.

He.

Her foes are uppermost,

her enemies are secure;

Because the LORD has afflicted her

for her many rebellions.

Her children have gone away,

captive before the foe.

Vau.

From daughter Zion has gone

all her glory:

Her princes have become like rams

that find no pasture.

They have gone off exhausted

before their pursuers.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem,

return to the Lord your God!

***Lectio III (Lam 1:7-9)***

Zain.

Jerusalem remembers

in days of wretched homelessness,

All the precious things she once had

in days gone by.

But when her people fell into the hands of the foe,

and she had no help,

Her foes looked on and laughed

at her collapse.

Heth.

Jerusalem has sinned grievously,

therefore she has become a mockery;

Those who honored her now demean her,

for they saw her nakedness;

She herself groans out loud,

and turns away.

Teth.

Her uncleanness is on her skirt;

she has no thought of her future.

Her downfall is astonishing,

with no one to comfort her.

“Look, O LORD, at my misery;

how the enemy triumphs!”

Jerusalem, Jerusalem,

return to the Lord your God!

**Good Friday**

***Lectio I (Lam 2:1-3)***

From the Lamentation of the Prophet Jeremiah.

Aleph.

How the Lord in his wrath

has abhorred daughter Zion,

Casting down from heaven to earth

the glory of Israel,

Not remembering his footstool

on the day of his wrath!

Beth.

The Lord has devoured without pity

all of Jacob’s dwellings;

In his fury he has razed

daughter Judah’s defenses,

Has brought to the ground in dishonor

a kingdom and its princes.

Ghimel.

In blazing wrath, he cut down entirely

the horn of Israel;

He withdrew the support of his right hand

when the enemy approached;

He burned against Jacob like a blazing fire

that consumes everything in its path.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem,

return to the Lord your God!

***Lectio II (Lam 2:4-6)***

Daleth.

He bent his bow like an enemy;

the arrow in his right hand

Like a foe, he killed

all those held precious;

On the tent of daughter Zion

he poured out his wrath like fire.

He.

The Lord has become the enemy,

he has devoured Israel:

Devoured all its strongholds,

destroyed its defenses,

Multiplied moaning and groaning

throughout daughter Judah.

Vau.

He laid waste his booth like a garden,

destroyed his shrine;

The LORD has blotted out in Zion

feast day and sabbath,

Has scorned in fierce wrath

king and priest.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem,

return to the Lord your God!

***Lectio III (Lam 2:7-9)***

Zain.

The Lord has rejected his altar,

spurned his sanctuary;

He has handed over to the enemy

the walls of its strongholds.

They shout in the house of the LORD

as on a feast day.

Heth.

The LORD was bent on destroying

the wall of daughter Zion:

He stretched out the measuring line;

did not hesitate to devour,

Brought grief on rampart and wall

till both succumbed.

Teth.

Her gates sank into the ground;

he smashed her bars to bits.

Her king and her princes are among the nations;

instruction is wanting,

Even her prophets do not obtain

any vision from the LORD.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem,

return to the Lord your God!

**Holy Saturday**

***Lectio I (Lam 4:1-4)***

From the Lamentation of the Prophet Jeremiah.

Aleph.

How the gold has lost its luster,

the noble metal changed;

Jewels lie scattered

at the corner of every street.

Beth.

And Zion’s precious children,

worth their weight in gold—

How they are treated like clay jugs,

the work of any potter!

Ghimel.

Even jackals offer their breasts

to nurse their young;

But the daughter of my people is as cruel

as the ostrich in the wilderness.

Daleth.

The tongue of the infant cleaves

to the roof of its mouth in thirst;

Children beg for bread,

but no one gives them a piece.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem,

return to the Lord your God!

***Lectio II (Lam 4:5-8)***

He.

Those who feasted on delicacies

are abandoned in the streets;

Those who reclined on crimson

now embrace dung heaps.

Vau.

The punishment of the daughter of my people

surpassed the penalty of Sodom,

Which was overthrown in an instant

with no hand laid on it.

Zain.

Her princes were brighter than snow,

whiter than milk,

Their bodies more ruddy than coral,

their beauty like the sapphire.

Heth.

Now their appearance is blacker than soot,

they go unrecognized in the streets;

Their skin has shrunk on their bones,

and become dry as wood.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem,

return to the Lord your God!

***Lectio III (Lam 4:9-12)***

Teth.

Better for those pierced by the sword

than for those pierced by hunger,

Better for those who bleed from wounds

than for those who lack food.

Iod.

The hands of compassionate women

have boiled their own children!

They became their food

when the daughter of my people was shattered.

Caph.

The LORD has exhausted his anger,

poured out his blazing wrath;

He has kindled a fire in Zion

that has consumed her foundations.

Lamed.

The kings of the earth did not believe,

nor any of the world’s inhabitants,

That foe or enemy could enter

the gates of Jerusalem.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem,

return to the Lord your God!