ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN

Jeremiah 23:1-6
Christ Brings Salvation for the Scattered.

Judah's kings, priests, and many of the prophets had been unfaithful to the LORD and his Word. They were idolatrous and self-serving. The wayward prophets foretold peace and only good when they should have been proclaiming God's Law, repentance and a return to God and his Love and faithfulness. Judah would be overrun, destroyed, and taken captive. The people were harassed, scared and scattered. God saw and knew, and he promised to bring salvation and one who would be the faithful prophet, priest and king for his people – Christ Jesus.

Verse 1: God knew what was happening to his people. God is always in control, and in his mercy he gives a time of grace. But these leaders of Judah would not turn from their evil ways. The LORD was going to act. What are some ways you suffer for being a Christian in this sinful world?

Why is it a comfort to know that God sees it?

Verse 2: God is slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. God is just. God is love. We see all these things at work. For those who refuse God and his love and choose to harm his people, God will bestow punishment. This is a warning to anyone in leadership whether that be the home, the church, the community. God wants us to bestow care on others. How can you "bestow care" on those around you?

Verse 3: God promises to gather his people together, to bless them and they will bear fruit and multiply. Part of this promise is a repeat of the blessing to Adam and Eve, and also Noah after they came out of the ark. As with many of these restoration prophecies, they are fulfilled partially when the exiles return to _____. They are fulfilled ultimately in God bringing both Jews and Gentiles into the _____ of God through the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and when he returns to bring all believers home to heaven. What books of the Bible talk about what life was like in Babylon, and then also about the return from exile?

D_____, E_____, N_____, E_____.

What books of the Bible talk about what heaven is like and Jesus coming back for us on the last day.

1 T_____, R_____.

Verse 4: Jesus fulfills all these promises to God's people. He is the Good Shepherd, and he gives us shepherds who share God's Word with us. Pastors, Teachers, and Staff Ministers, Godly Parents, and others who faithfully share the Gospel with us are God's gift to us. What message do they give us that makes us unafraid?

Verse 5: Jeremiah gives a prophecy that was also given through other faithful prophets of his time. The tree of David's line had become lifeless, idolatrous, and ready for fire. God cut it down in the exile to Babylon. The righteous branch that springs up from the stump of Jesse is the King and Savior promised from the Garden of Eden. It's Jesus. He is the perfect king. All other earthly leaders were _____, but Jesus is _____. He rules us perfectly and provides everything necessary for us. What are some blessings Jesus has brought you as he's ruled your life through the hard times and good times?

Hard - Good-

Verse 6: Jesus is Our Righteous Savior. And Jesus gives us his righteousness. This is the Gospel message. Jesus paid for our sins on the cross to wipe our slate clean before God. Jesus gave his perfect life so we can stand before God on the last day (Galatians 3:27, 2 Corinthians 5:21). This brings us true peace and safety. How can you reflect this peace in how you live and serve today?

Name: _____ Date: _____