



## **Fourth Sunday of Lent** **March 11, 2018**

*Selected reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23*

We are in the throes. The dark days of Lent. The fire of the Easter vigil seems like a hardly remembered promise. Today's readings beg us to recall the losses we suffer again and again over the millennia when we forget our promise to live with God in his covenant.

*...all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people  
added infidelity to infidelity,  
practicing all the abominations of the nations...*

And so, Jeremiah carries water for God and castigates Israel in the midst of our desperate loss and exile into Babylon:

*"Until the land has retrieved its lost sabbaths,  
during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest  
while seventy years are fulfilled."*

Personal darkness, especially the thirst for power and greed for more, grows within us and spreads throughout our community, even afflicting the land. But what an incredible insight by Jeremiah! God did not intend to abandon us to self-centeredness. God gave us the Sabbath so we can step outside of the mindset of the nations who worship the gods of self-accomplishment. The Sabbath provides a rhythm of life for remembering the abundance of God's gifts and his promise of Light and Life.

Though a hardly remembered promise, in the midst of darkness "the Light came in to the world." As we amble toward Easter, its glow grows toward us. Remember.

-Mr. Sean Agniel, Advancement Chief of Staff