

Sunday, February 28, 2021

Lament over Jerusalem



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Secretary: Mary Braun

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

MISSION STATEMENT

*We will **LIVE** and **SERVE** through **FAITH***

*we will **ACT** with **LOVE** and **KINDNESS***

*we will **GIVE** hope and **SUPPORT** to all.*

INTRODUCTION

Collective lament is an appropriate and a necessary response of people or a nation burdened with a history of social injustice, poverty, oppression, murder, and the privileging of lies over truth that bleed into its present. It is easier to point out how others have committed violence against us than to accept and condemn the violence we commit against each other.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN –

“Softly Tenderly”

#608 ELW



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,



watch - ing for you and for me.
mer - cies for you and for me? “Come home, come home!”
par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home.” Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, “O sin - ner, come home!”

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Fountain of living water,

pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.

Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy One of mighty power,

Your word is powerfully dangerous. Your word casts out demons. Your word heals incurable diseases. Your word devours empires. Your word transforms the fabric of the universe. Help us to stand in awe and fear of what your word is capable of doing. Give us courage to speak your word and wisdom to hear it, for the sake of the one whose very whisper can demolish sin, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING: Psalm 122

¹I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

²Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

³Jerusalem — built as a city that is bound firmly together.

⁴To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

⁵For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

⁷Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers."

⁸For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you."

⁹For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9, 31-35

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them — do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³²He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.'

³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

SERMON

HYMN:

“Thy Holy Wings”

#613 ELW



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,
 2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast
 3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
 where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.
 Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
 Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
 Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.
 for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.
 and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

HOLY BAPTISM

Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the minister at the font and minister addresses them and the assembly...

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth...

People of God, do you promise to support Walter and Avery and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The minister addresses candidates for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: **I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

Response: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, ... now and forever.

Amen.

BAPTISM

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

After each baptism, the assembly responds:

Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy.

LAYING ON OF THE HANDS

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

Let us pray... both now and forever.

Amen

Walter Clyde Nelson and Avery Elizabeth Nelson, children of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

(Lighting of the candles)

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All the ends of the earth worship you. From galaxies to microorganisms, preserve your creation. Teach humanity to wonder at your works and to join you in tending to creation's well-being. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine. (*Here specific places of need may be named.*) Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Restore all who are sick or grieving. Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You made Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of a multitude of nations. Bless grandparents, parents, and foster parents, and the children who look to them for care and guidance. Console those who deal with infertility, parents who have entrusted their children to adoption, and children longing to be adopted. Equip ministries and services to families. (*The congregation's ministries and community services may be named.*) Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We await the day of Christ's coming in glory. Lead us by the example of all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, that together we may find our lives in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Faithful God,

you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

PRAYER after COMMUNION

God of steadfast love,

at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ✠ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

Amen

HYMN:

“Wash, O God, Our Sons & Daughters”

#445 ELW



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.
3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.
Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.
God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.
one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

**Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship!
Please come again.**

Response to God’s Word Last Week:

February 21, 2021 Virtual Attendance *: 92

**Virtual attendance is based on a matrix from the NEMN Synod. We determine the number of unique views per week and multiply by 2 – assuming there are two people per household watching the YouTube video service.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME to the newest members of Bethesda Lutheran Church. Walter Clyde & Avery Elizabeth Nelson were baptized today. Parents: Steven & Corrine Nelson of McGrath, MN.

PRAYER & CARE LIST: Dick Southworth, Doris Reinhard, Joyce Dressley, Lynn Hansen, Shirley Ekland

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES will continue in person throughout the Lent Season. Services will be at 6:00pm to accommodate the Confirmation Students course of study. Pre-recording of the service will be available on our YouTube channel that evening.

“ZOOM COFFEE HOUR”: coffee and conversation will continue to meet every other Tuesday as interest continues. Next meeting is March 2nd at 10:00am. Please email the office if you are interested so we can email you a Zoom invite. If you have additional questions, please contact Mary in the office at blcmalmo@gmail.com or 320 684-2123.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

DONATIONS FOR U.S. SEVERE STORMS

Lutheran Disaster Response is communicating with and standing ready to support the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, the Southwestern Texas Synod, the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, and Lutheran Social Services Disaster Response. With such extensive damage, long-term recovery may include repairing water-damaged homes, disaster case management and supporting vulnerable populations. Your gift will support storm survivors. Gifts to "U.S. Severe Storms" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by severe storms. There is an offering plate for this special donations at the back of the church or you can go online to give <https://community.elca.org/us-storms?erid=42a9109a-eea1-43bd-af03-3ab77414a07e&trid=42a9109a-eea1-43bd-af03-3ab77414a07e> other options:

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*Make checks payable to
Lutheran Disaster Response,
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Call **800-638-3522** to make a donation with a credit card. Operators are ready to assist you Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Central Time.