



Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Midweek Services for Lent 2021 LBW Spoken Evening Prayer With Psalms of Lament

6:30 PM Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Warm welcome, everyone, to Immanuel Lutheran Church.

We are recording this service from the parsonage. This is where Carol and I live. It is the church's apartment.

Thank you for joining us for this spoken service of Evening Prayer, together with some reflections on the Psalms of Lament we have chosen for this year's Midweek Lent Series. This evening's lament is Joel 1. It is lament for the devastation of the land.

A nice thing to note is that you may pray Evening Prayer at home for your personal or family devotions. The service does not require an ordained minister. It grieves me some not to hear Pastor Carol sing evening prayer, but the service does not need to be sung. It can be read aloud, quietly if you are all by yourself, but still read aloud.

We are honored and delighted that you are here and hope that you will return. If you do not already have a church home in our city, please consider joining this congregation. We would rejoice to have you. Just speak with Pastor Carol or send her an email (caefryer@gmail.com).

In Christ,

Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Service of Light

L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
C **the light no darkness can overcome.**

L Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
C **and the day is almost over.**

L Let your light scatter the darkness,
C **and illumine your Church.**

As the hymn is said, the candles on and near the altar are lighted. When the large candle is used, the candles are lighted from its flame.

L Joyous light of glory:
C **of the immortal Father; heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.**
We have come to the setting of the sun, and we look to the evening light.
We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever.
O Son of God, O Giver of life: The universe proclaims your glory.

The thanksgiving concludes the Service of Light.

L The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

L Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night:
Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ;
May his Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;
for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation,
and we, your creatures, glorify you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

Psalmody

The Psalmody begins with this song for forgiveness and protection.

☩ Let my prayer rise before you as incense;
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly;
hear my voice when I cry to you.

Let my prayer rise before you as incense;
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.
Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.

But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God;
in you I take refuge. Strip me not of my life.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Let my prayer rise before you as incense;
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Silence for meditation.

ℒ Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before you, O Lord, and let your lovingkindness descend upon us, that with purified minds we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host, and may glorify you forever and ever.

☩ Amen

A second psalm is said. Silence for meditation follows each psalm or canticle.

Joel, Chapter 1, RSV

¹The word of the LORD that came to Joel, the son of Pethu'el:

Lament over the Ruin of the Country

²Hear this, you aged men,
give ear, all inhabitants of the land!

**Has such a thing happened in your days,
or in the days of your fathers?**

³Tell your children of it,
and let your children tell their children,
and their children another generation.

**⁴What the cutting locust left,
the swarming locust has eaten.
What the swarming locust left,
the hopping locust has eaten,
and what the hopping locust left,
the destroying locust has eaten.**

⁵Awake, you drunkards, and weep;
and wail, all you drinkers of wine,
because of the sweet wine,
for it is cut off from your mouth.

**⁶For a nation has come up against my land,
powerful and without number;
its teeth are lions' teeth,
and it has the fangs of a lioness.**

⁷It has laid waste my vines,
and splintered my fig trees;
it has stripped off their bark and thrown it down;
their branches are made white.

**⁸Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth
for the bridegroom of her youth.**

⁹The cereal offering and the drink offering are cut off
from the house of the LORD.

The priests mourn,
the ministers of the LORD.

**¹⁰The fields are laid waste,
the ground mourns;
because the grain is destroyed,
the wine fails,
the oil languishes.**

¹¹Be confounded, O tillers of the soil,
wail, O vinedressers,

for the wheat and the barley;
because the harvest of the field has perished.

12The vine withers,

the fig tree languishes.

Pomegranate, palm, and apple,

all the trees of the field are withered;

and gladness fails

from the sons of men.

A Call to Repentance and Prayer

**13Gird on sackcloth and lament, O priests,
wail, O ministers of the altar.**

Go in, pass the night in sackcloth,

O ministers of my God!

**Because cereal offering and drink offering
are withheld from the house of your God.**

14Sanctify a fast,

call a solemn assembly.

Gather the elders

and all the inhabitants of the land

to the house of the LORD your God;

and cry to the LORD.

15Alas for the day!

For the day of the LORD is near,

and as destruction from the Almighty it comes.

16Is not the food cut off

before our eyes,

joy and gladness

from the house of our God?

17The seed shrivels under the clods,

the storehouses are desolate;

the granaries are ruined

because the grain has failed.

18How the beasts groan!

The herds of cattle are perplexed

because there is no pasture for them;

even the flocks of sheep are dismayed.

¹⁹Unto thee, O LORD, I cry.

For fire has devoured
the pastures of the wilderness,
and flame has burned
all the trees of the field.

**²⁰Even the wild beasts cry to thee
because the water brooks are dried up,
and fire has devoured
the pastures of the wilderness.**

GOSPEL LESSON FOR THE DAY John 5:1-18, KJV

¹After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

²Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.

³In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.

⁴For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.

⁵And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.

⁶When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?

⁷The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.

⁸Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.

⁹And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.

¹⁰The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed.

¹¹He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk.

¹²Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk?

¹³And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.

¹⁴Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

¹⁵The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole.

¹⁶And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.

¹⁷But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

¹⁸Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

Silence for meditation follows each reading. The leader then continues:

- 📖 In many and various ways God spoke to his people of old by the prophets.
- 🗣️ **But now in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.**

GOSPEL CANTICLE

- 🗣️ **My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed.**

The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

Litany

℣ In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ **Lord, have mercy.**

℣ For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ **Lord, have mercy.**

℣ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ **Lord, have mercy.**

℣ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ **Lord, have mercy.**

℣ For *Bishop Daniel*, for our *pastors* in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ **Lord, have mercy.**

℣ For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ **Lord, have mercy.**

℣ For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ **Lord, have mercy.**

℣ For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ **Lord, have mercy.**

℣ For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ **Lord, have mercy.**

℣ For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ **Lord, have mercy.**

℣ For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us give thanks to the Lord.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

℣ Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for meditation

℣ Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

☩ **To you, O Lord.**

℣ O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

☩ **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

℣ Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

☩ **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

℣ Let us bless the Lord.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

Homily — A Reflection on Joel 1

CLOSING PRAYER

℣ Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

☩ **Amen**

BENEDICTION

℣ The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, ✝ the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless and preserve you.

☩ Amen

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