



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 24, 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 reflections on some Psalms of lament. This evening's lament is Psalm 90. Pastor Carol views it as a lament over human frailty — a frailty that has been much on people's minds during this COVID pandemic.

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 (ceafryer@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.

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PSALM 90, LBW (*To be read responsively*)

¹Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

²**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.**

³You turn us back to the dust and say,
“Go back, O child of earth.”

⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night.**

⁵You sweep us away like a dream;
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

⁶**In the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

⁷For we consume away in your displeasure;
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

⁸**Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

⁹When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly
and we are gone.**

¹¹Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?

¹²**So teach us to number our days,
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

¹³Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry?
Be gracious to your servants.

¹⁴**Satisfy us by your lovingkindness in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

¹⁵Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us
and the years in which we suffered adversity.

¹⁶**Show your servants your works
and your splendor to their children.**

¹⁷May the graciousness of the LORD our God be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.

PSALM PRAYER

☒ Eternal Father of our mortal race, in Jesus Christ your grace has come upon us: For his sake, prosper the work of our hands until he returns to gladden our hearts forever. **Amen.**

GOSPEL LESSON FOR THE DAY John 10:1-18, NRSV

[Jesus is speaking] Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away — and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

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 (Mary's Magnificat)

☩ 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 Psalm 90

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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