



Christ Lutheran Church Mid-Week Lenten Worship

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Pastor Jennifer Toburen

Joe Abate, Organist

Holy Lament: A Worship Series for Lent

Lent is a season of repentance, turning to God and asking for God's goodness to wipe away our sins and show us how to live anew. It is a time in which we seek healing for our sins and our sorrows that weigh us down. It is a time to pray for the healing of the whole Creation. Let us journey through this time...together.

Week 1 Introduction

What is lament? The Bible is filled with examples of faithful people of God offering up sorrowful or even angry prayers to God. Even Jesus laments over Jerusalem and weeps at the death of a friend. To lament, to grieve, to weep—these are all part of the life of faith. Often, we are too quick to push aside the uncomfortable feelings of grief and loss. It seems we have lost the spiritual discipline of lament which is a holy, God-oriented practice. The biblical authors show us how to acknowledge the grief that is part of everyday life, holding it, and then placing it gently (or forcefully!) in God's hands. This Lent we will explore the laments found in scripture and encounter the gift of holy lament.

Prelude & Welcome

Opening Dialogue

P: The prophet Joel calls us to return to the Lord with all our hearts.

C: Lord, use this holy season of Lent to reorient our lives toward you.

P: As we raise our voices in lament,

C: comfort us and give us cause for hope.

P: Bless our worship, our work, and our play.

C: Guide us with your Spirit, that we may follow you with confidence and trust.

Offering our Hearts to God

I Love You, Lord

W&P 67

I love you Lord, and I lift my voice to worship you;

O my soul, rejoice.

Take joy, my king, In what you hear;

May it be a sweet, sweet, sound in your ear

Thanksgiving for the Word

P: Gracious God, who has named and claimed us, calling us your beloved children,
you know the secrets of our hearts.

C: When we sin and stray from your paths, you astound us with your saving grace.

P: Loving Jesus, living Word, in you the Kingdom of God has come near; through you
all that was lost has been found.

**C: Help us to boldly follow wherever you may lead, trusting your promise that we
need not fear, for you are with us.**

P: Holy Spirit, the mystery in which we dwell, into our scarcity, your abundance flows.
Enliven all communities with your good news.

C: Guide us to love and serve Jesus, giving ourselves away for the sake of the world.

P: For this Word of life, we give you thanks.

C: All glory to you, holy God, now and forever – Amen!!

Greeting

P: The never-ending love of God, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: The prophets, psalm-writers, and countless other people of faith have given us an example of how to hold our grief before you through songs of lament. Let us pray.

C: Loving God, Hear our cries this day. Give us the courage to name our deepest sorrows and to hand them over to you. Heal our wounded hearts and give us peace. We ask this in Jesus's name. Amen

Gathering Hymn

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

ELW 599

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems. The first system contains the first four lines of lyrics, and the second system contains the final four lines. The piano accompaniment is written in a bass clef with a key signature of one sharp. The vocal parts are written in treble clefs. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,
from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, 375–430; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808–1896, alt.
Music: SOUTHWELL, W. Daman, *The Psalmes of David*, 1579, alt.

P: Living God, Living Word, through the reading of the scriptures and through the power of your Holy Spirit, may we hear for ourselves the good news, and believe, because of your Word made flesh, that Jesus Christ comes as the Savior of the world.

A Reading from the Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament: Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

1 The words of the Teacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

² Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

³ What do people gain from all the toil
at which they toil under the sun?

⁴ A generation goes, and a generation comes,
but the earth remains forever.

⁵ The sun rises, and the sun goes down
and hurries to the place where it rises.

⁶ The wind blows to the south
and goes around to the north;
round and round goes the wind,
and on its circuits the wind returns.

⁷ All streams run to the sea,
but the sea is not full;
to the place where the streams flow,
there they continue to flow.

⁸ All things are wearisome,
more than one can express;
the eye is not satisfied with seeing
or the ear filled with hearing.

⁹ What has been is what will be,
and what has been done is what will be done;
there is nothing new under the sun.

¹⁰ Is there a thing of which it is said,
“See, this is new”?

It has already been
in the ages before us.

¹¹ The people of long ago are not remembered,
nor will there be any remembrance
of people yet to come
by those who come after them.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Lenten Acclamation

Create in me a clean heart

W&P 35

Create in me a clean heart, O God
That I might serve you;
Create in me a clean heart, O God
That I might be renewed.
So fill me, and heal me,
And bring me back to you.
Create in me a clean heart O God
That I might serve you.

The Holy Gospel According to John, the 7th Chapter

John 7: 37-39

C: Glory to you, O Lord

³⁷ On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸ and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹ Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive, for as yet there was no Spirit because Jesus was not yet glorified.

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Pastor Jennifer

Hymn of the Day:

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ELW 632

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: ST. ANNE. William Croft, 1678–1727

Lenten offerings may be placed in the plate at the back of the church or offered online at www.clcduncannon.org, select Give Now at the top right of your screen. We are grateful for your support of the mission of Christ Lutheran Church and the spread of the good news of Jesus Christ.

Prayers of the People

We come to you now in the humility of sinners before our Creator, seeking confidence, consolation, and hope. We pray for the healing of our hearts, our families, our church, our nation, and the whole world. Let us pray.

P: O God, we pray for the healing of creation. We lament and lay before you our confession of sin for the ways that we have harmed the earth – both land and seas, through carelessness, indifference and greed. We pray for your guidance to help us find new sources of energy, to teach us ways that do not pollute, to lead us to value the earth more than money. In holy lament....

C: We pray, teach us your way, O Lord.

P: Holy God, we pray for the healing of our souls. We lament and lay before you our confession of sin for the ways that we have harmed ourselves and our neighbors through anger, pride, selfishness, and indifference. We pray that you will heal our hearts and lead us in light where there is goodness, kindness, and mercy. In holy lament...

C: We pray, teach us your way, O Lord.

P: Righteous God, we pray for the healing of our nation. We lament and lay before you our confession of sin for the ways that we have built systems of competition, oppression, and profit-driven excess. Help us to repent of the ways that discrimination, racism, and white supremacy have formed the foundations of this country, weaving their ways of terror and violence throughout our countries. We pray that you will teach us how to live well together, seeing the face of God in each and every person. In holy lament...

C: We pray, teach us your way, O Lord.

P: Merciful God, we pray for the healing of the church. We lament and lay before you our confession of sin for the ways that the church has been silent when it should have spoken the gospel boldly. Guide the church to be the light of Christ which leads to the growth of love and peace throughout the world. In holy lament...

C: We pray, teach us your way, O Lord.

P: Almighty God, we pray for the healing of the world. We lament and lay before you our confession of sin for the ways that we have waged wars of violence, oppression and conquest that have ravaged your people and the land. This night we pray for the Palestinian people of Gaza and the West Bank. We pray for the people of Ukraine as they enter the fourth year of invasion. We pray for the people of Cuba who are suffering a humanitarian crisis resulting from the US invasion of Venezuela. In holy lament...

C: We pray, teach us your way, O Lord.

P: Saving God, we give thanks for the promise and hope that came to us through your Son, Savior and Healer of the World. We remember all who live in your eternal care. Help us to walk in faith and truth, until we join the saints in light. We lift our prayers to you with humble hearts.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P: O Lord, there is no God like you, in heaven or on earth, keeping covenant in steadfast love with your servants who seek the path of your righteousness. Trusting in your mercy, we pray as Jesus taught us...

**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.**

Sending Hymn:

May you run and not be weary

W&P 97

May You Run And Not Be Weary

May you run and not be wea - ry. May your
heart be filled with song. And may the
love of God con - tin - ue to
give you hope and keep you strong. And may you
run and not be wea - ry. May your
life be filled with joy. And may the
road you trav - el al - ways lead you home.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of seven lines of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Text: Handt Hanson

Music: JOURNEY BLESSING, Handt Hanson

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Lenten Blessing & Dismissal

P: Faithful to your Word, O God, we ask that you draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

People of God, trust that the Lord watches
over your going out and your coming in.
Hold fast to the knowledge that the Lord shields
your joys and holds your sorrows.
May our holy and gracious + God bless you and keep you this day and always.

Go in peace. Follow the Christ. In him, there is hope and safety.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Holy Lament: A Worship Series for Lent

This series explores various kinds of lament found in scripture. Each week we will consider what it means to sit with our grief, worries, and cares rather than try to push them aside. We will discover that many faithful believers have wrestled with grief, sorrow, and questions for God about why the innocent suffer. This series understands lament as one of the more faithful things we can do. When we approach God with honesty and humility, and we admit that some things are too big for our hearts to bear, we will find there not a disapproving God but one who weeps with us. We will find a God who can hold our grief and disappointment and walk with us toward transformation and healing where we might find holy presence and renewed hope. We will be reminded that Jesus' death on the cross—the place to which the season of Lent leads us—is the reason we never mourn as those without hope.

Sources/Acknowledgements:

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