



## **Christ Lutheran Church Mid-Week Lenten Worship**

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Pastor Jennifer Toburen  
Joe Abate, Organist

### **Holy Lament: A Worship Series for Lent**

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*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 5 Reflection**

This week we turn to communal lament. Sometimes disaster strikes not just one person or household but an entire community, even an entire nation. At such times we can find strength in coming together to mourn, raising our collective voices in a loud cry to God. Just as we need the support of the community when we face individual calamity, we also need one another in the face of a shared disaster. We need one another for strength, for courage, and to help us make sense of what is often senseless: destruction due to natural disaster, or destruction due to human violence.

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

## 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.

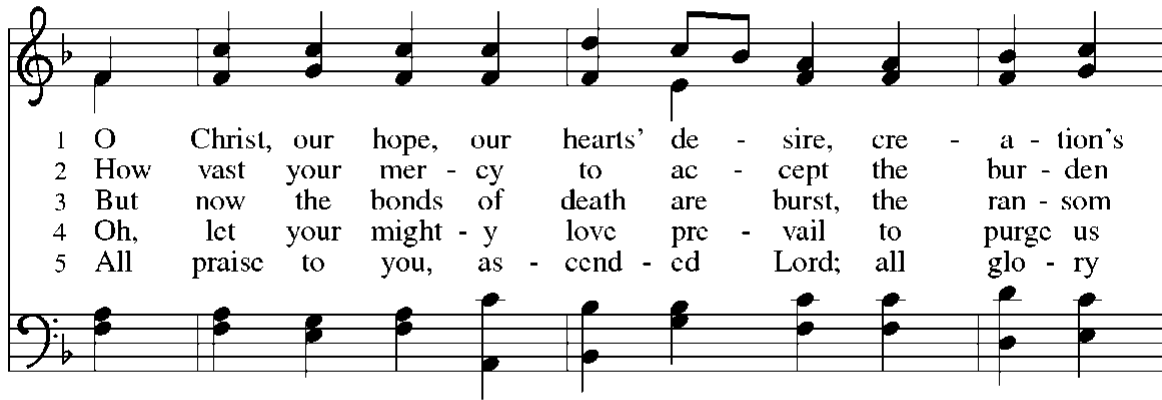
**C: And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

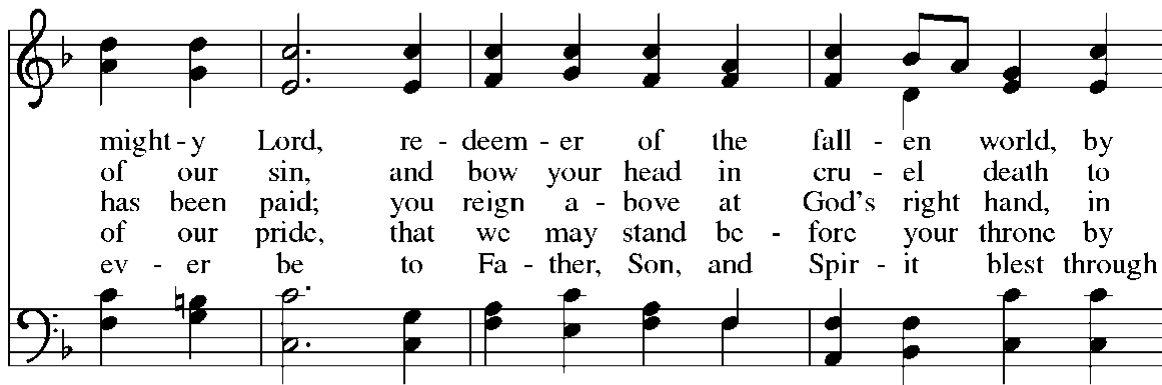
P: The prophets, psalm-writers, and countless other people of faith have given us an example of how we can cry out to God through prayers of lament. Let us pray.

**C: Holy and merciful God, in times of distress, turn our hearts and minds toward you. Let our communal laments be signs to those around us that we worship you, a God who hears and holds our cries. As we lament together in community, may we provide space to all searching for ways to voice their own pain and grief. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

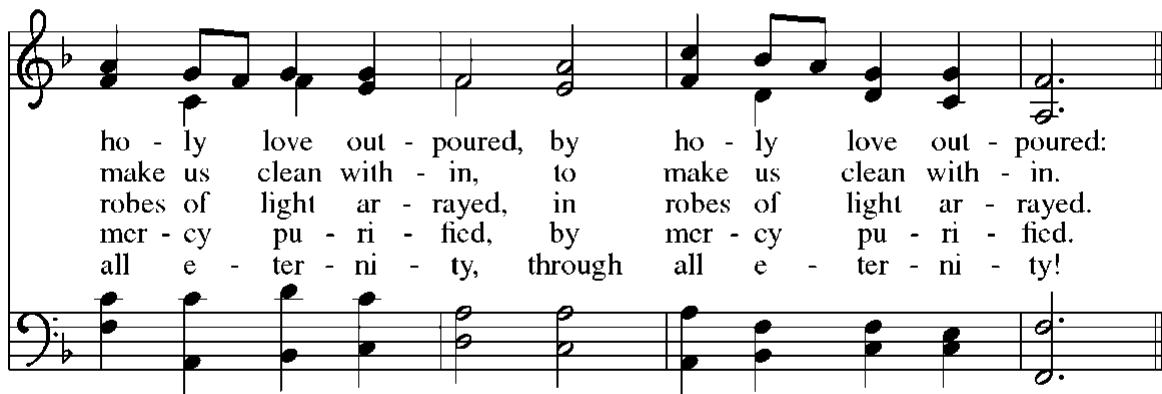
## O Christ, Our Hope



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's  
 2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den  
 3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som  
 4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us  
 5 All praise to you, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry



might - y Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by  
 of our sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to  
 has been paid; you reign a - bove at God's right hand, in  
 of our pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by  
 ev - er be to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest through



ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:  
 make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.  
 robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.  
 mer - cy pu - ri - fied, by mer - cy pu - ri - fied.  
 all e - ter - ni - ty, through all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, adapt.  
 Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

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 Lamentations 5: 1, 15-22**

**5** Remember, O Lord, what has befallen us;  
look, and see our disgrace!

<sup>15</sup> The joy of our hearts has ceased;  
our dancing has been turned to mourning.

<sup>16</sup> The crown has fallen from our head;  
woe to us, for we have sinned!

<sup>17</sup> Because of this our hearts are sick;  
because of these things our eyes have grown dim:

<sup>18</sup> because of Mount Zion, which lies desolate;  
jackals prowl over it.

<sup>19</sup> But you, O Lord, reign forever;  
your throne endures to all generations.

<sup>20</sup> Why have you forgotten us completely?  
Why have you forsaken us these many days?

<sup>21</sup> Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored;  
renew our days as of old—

<sup>22</sup> unless you have utterly rejected us  
and are angry with us beyond measure.

Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 74:1-2, 12-23**

*Read Responsively*

<sup>1</sup> O God, why do you cast us off forever?

Why does your anger smoke against the sheep of your pasture?

<sup>2</sup> **Remember your congregation, which you acquired long ago,  
which you redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage.**

**Remember Mount Zion, where you came to dwell.**

- <sup>12</sup> Yet God my King is from of old,  
working salvation in the earth.
- <sup>13</sup> **You divided the sea by your might;  
you broke the heads of the dragons in the waters.**
- <sup>14</sup> You crushed the heads of Leviathan;  
you gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.
- <sup>15</sup> **You cut openings for springs and torrents;  
you dried up ever-flowing streams.**
- <sup>16</sup> Yours is the day, yours also the night;  
you established the luminaries and the sun.
- <sup>17</sup> **You have fixed all the bounds of the earth;  
you made summer and winter.**
- <sup>18</sup> Remember this, O Lord, how the enemy scoffs,  
and an impious people reviles your name.
- <sup>19</sup> **Do not deliver the soul of your dove to the wild animals;  
do not forget the life of your poor forever.**
- <sup>20</sup> Have regard for your covenant,  
for the dark places of the land are full of the haunts of violence.
- <sup>21</sup> **Do not let the downtrodden be put to shame;  
let the poor and needy praise your name.**
- <sup>22</sup> Rise up, O God, plead your cause;  
remember how the impious scoff at you all day long.
- <sup>23</sup> **Do not forget the clamor of your foes,  
the uproar of your adversaries that goes up continually.**

**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 Matthew, the 7<sup>th</sup> Chapter      Matthew 7:12, 24-29**

**C: Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>12</sup> “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

<sup>24</sup> “Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock. <sup>26</sup> And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

<sup>28</sup> Now when Jesus had finished saying these words, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> for he taught them as one having authority and not as their scribes.

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Homily**

Pastor Jennifer

**Hymn of the Day:**

*Will you Let me be a Servant*

ELW 659

# Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as  
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers  
 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night - time  
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll  
 5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as

Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to  
 on the road; we are here to help each oth - er  
 of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,  
 laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row  
 Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my ser - vant, too.  
 walk the mile and bear the load.  
 speak the peace you long to hear.  
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.  
 let you be my ser - vant, too.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953  
 Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard; arr. Betty Pulkingham, b. 1928  
 Text and music © 1977 Scripture In Song, c/o Integrity's Hosanna Music (ASCAP),  
 c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

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## **Prayers of the People**

P: Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of life may find our rest in you.

P: Show us your mercy, O God,

**C: and grant us your salvation.**

P: Give us the joy of your saving help again,

**C: and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.**

P: Give peace in all the world;

**C: for only in you can we live in safety.**

P: Keep the nations under your care,

**C: and guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

P: Let your way be known upon earth;

**C: your saving health among all nations.**

P: Let not the needy be forgotten,

**C: nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

P: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**C: and sustain me with your Holy Spirit.**

P: Lord, hear my prayer,

**C: and let my cry come before you.**

P: Let all generations see your blessing for your name is holy and your mercy is great. Surround us by your grace and guide us by your will. May Almighty God bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. This we pray in Jesus' name.

**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...

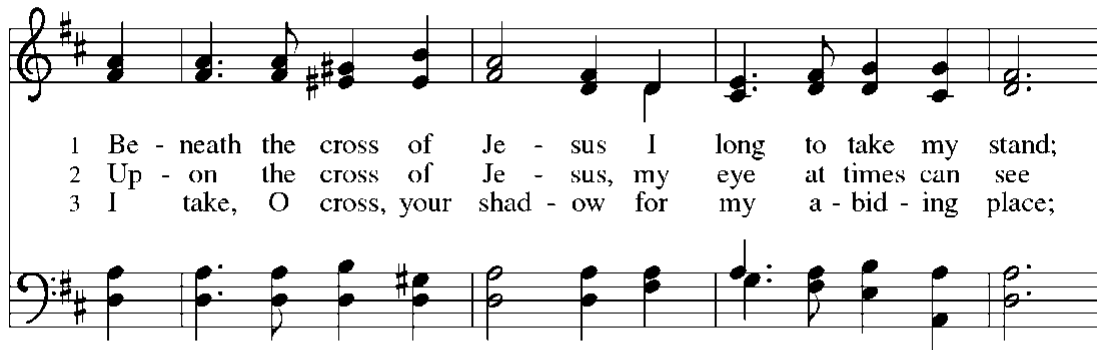
**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.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

**Sending Hymn:**

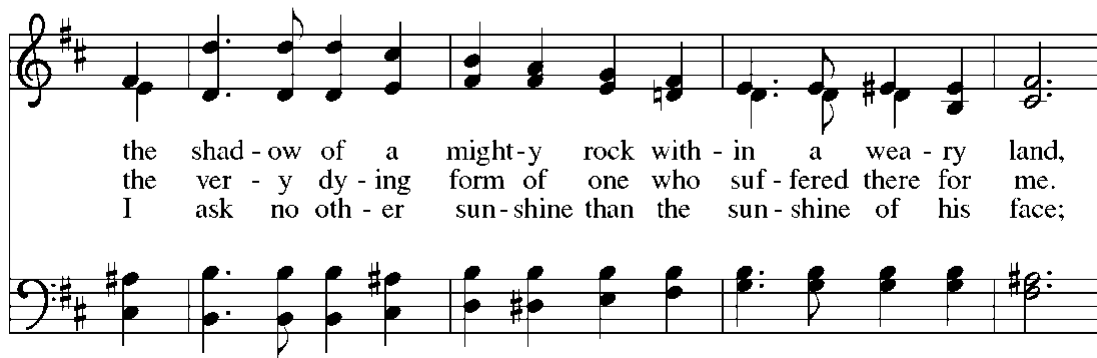
*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

ELW 338

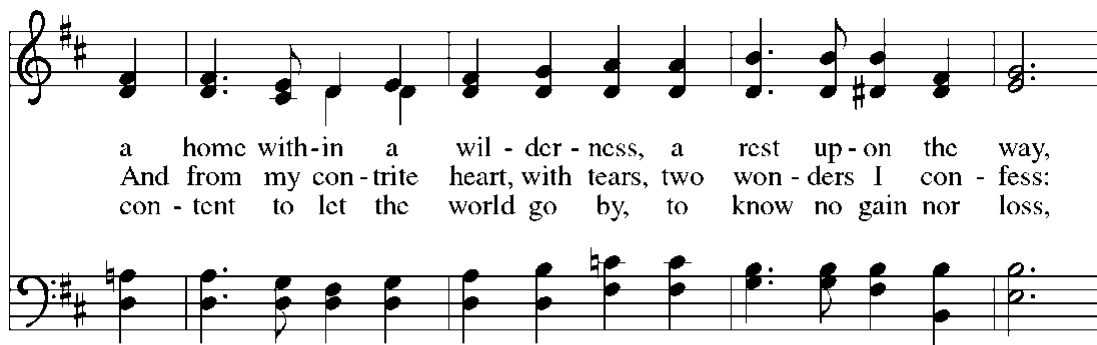
## Beneath the Cross of Jesus



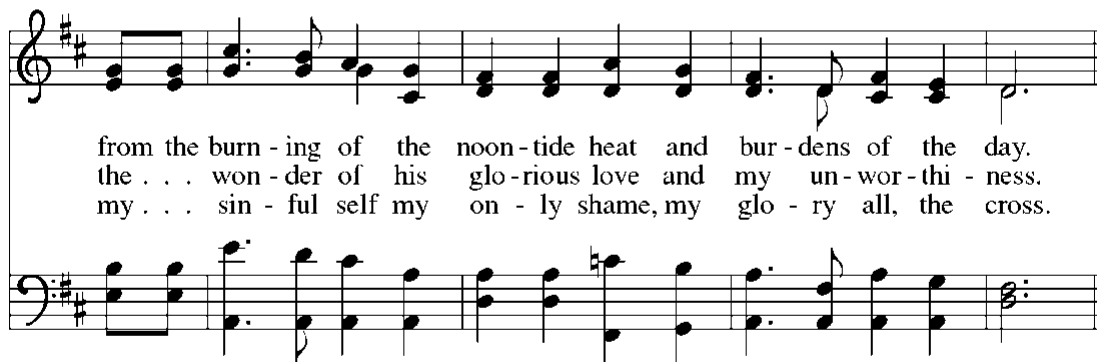
1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;  
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see  
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land,  
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.  
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:  
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.  
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

## 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.

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.  
**Amen.**

P: Go in peace. Follow the Christ. In him, there is hope and healing for the world.

**C: Amen. Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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## 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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