



## Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

6:30 PM Wednesday, February 24, 2021

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**W**arm 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 Psalm is Psalm 51.

One nice thing to point out is that you may do 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](mailto: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.*

**C** 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.

**C** Amen

*A second psalm is said. This Psalm 51 is to be reflected upon later in this service. Silence for meditation follows each psalm or canticle.*

Psalm 51, LBW

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

*(Continued, next page)*



<sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight.**

<sup>5</sup>And so you are justified when you speak  
and upright in your judgment.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.**

<sup>7</sup>For behold, you look for truth deep within me,  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

<sup>8</sup>**Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

<sup>9</sup>Make me hear of joy and gladness,  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

<sup>10</sup>**Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.

<sup>12</sup>**Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

<sup>13</sup>Give me the joy of your saving help again  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

<sup>14</sup>**I shall teach your ways to the wicked,  
and sinners shall return to you.**

<sup>15</sup>Deliver me from death, O God,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

<sup>16</sup>**Open my lips, O Lord,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

<sup>17</sup>Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

<sup>18</sup>**The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

<sup>19</sup>Be favorable and gracious to Zion,  
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

<sup>20</sup>**Then you will be pleased with the appointed sacrifices, with burnt-offerings  
and oblations;  
then shall they offer young bullocks upon your altar.**

*The psalm prayer appropriate to each psalm follows the silence.*

## PSALM PRAYER

☒ Almighty and merciful Father, you freely forgive those who, as David of old, acknowledge and confess their sins. Create in us pure hearts, and wash away all our sins in the blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

☑ **Amen**

## Lessons

*One or two lessons are read.*

GOSPEL LESSON FOR THE DAY ..... John 2:23—3:15, RSV

<sup>2:23</sup>Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs which he did; <sup>24</sup>but Jesus did not trust himself to them, <sup>25</sup>because he knew all men and needed no one to bear witness of man; for he himself knew what was in man.

<sup>3:1</sup>Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicode'mus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do, unless God is with him." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God." <sup>4</sup>Nicode'mus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born anew.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes; so it is with every one who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup>Nicode'mus said to him, "How can this be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand this? <sup>11</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen; but you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. <sup>14</sup>And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."

*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

**L** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**☩** Lord, have mercy.

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

**☩** Lord, have mercy.

**L** 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.

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

**☩** Lord, have mercy.

**L** 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.

**L** 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.

☩ **Alleluia.**

℣ 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.

- ℒ Let us bless the Lord.
- ☩ Thanks be to God.

## Homily — A Reflection on Psalm 51

### CLOSING PRAYER

- ℒ 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

- ℒ The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, ✝ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
- ☩ Amen

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