



## 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 17, 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 lament is Psalm 79. It includes the striking cry "there is no one to bury them."

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](mailto: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.*

**℣** 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 79, LBW (*To be read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>O God, the heathen have come into your inheritance;  
they have profaned your holy temple;  
they have made Jerusalem a heap of rubble.

<sup>2</sup>**They have given the bodies of your servants as food for the birds of the air,  
and the flesh of your faithful ones to the beasts of the field.**

<sup>3</sup>They have shed their blood like water on every side of Jerusalem,  
and there was no one to bury them.

<sup>4</sup>**We have become a reproach to our neighbors,  
an object of scorn and derision to those around us.**

<sup>5</sup>How long will you be angry, O LORD?  
Will your fury blaze like fire forever?

<sup>6</sup>**Pour out your wrath upon the heathen who have not known you  
and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon your name.**

<sup>7</sup>For they have devoured Jacob  
and made his dwelling a ruin.

<sup>8</sup>**Remember not our past sins; let your compassion be swift to meet us;  
for we have been brought very low.**

<sup>9</sup>Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of your name;  
deliver us and forgive us our sins, for your name's sake.

<sup>10</sup>**Why should the heathen say, "Where is their God?"  
Let it be known among the heathen and in our sight  
that you avenge the shedding of your servants' blood.**

<sup>11</sup>Let the sorrowful sighing of the prisoners come before you,  
and by your great might spare those who are condemned to die.

<sup>12</sup>**May the revilings with which they reviled you, O Lord,  
return sevenfold into their bosoms.**

<sup>13</sup>For we are your people and the sheep of your pasture;  
we will give you thanks forever and show forth your praise from age to age.

PSALM PRAYER

☒ Father of mercy, your Son told his enemies that, if they should destroy the temple of his body, you would raise it again in three days. By his death and resurrection demolish our pretensions of strength, and on the ruins build a temple worthy of your name, so that all the world may know the glory of your transforming power, shown in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GOSPEL LESSON FOR THE DAY ..... John 6:27-40, RSV

[Jesus said] <sup>27</sup>Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of man will give to you; for on him has God the Father set his seal." <sup>28</sup>Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." <sup>30</sup>So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see, and believe you? What work do you perform?" <sup>31</sup>Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" <sup>32</sup>Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup>For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven, and gives life to the world." <sup>34</sup>They said to him, "Lord, give us this bread always."

<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst. <sup>36</sup>But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup>All that the Father gives me will come to me; and him who comes to me I will not cast out. <sup>38</sup>For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me; <sup>39</sup>and this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up at the last day. <sup>40</sup>For this is the will of my Father, that every one who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

*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 79

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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