



LITURGY OF LAMENT
IN A SEASON OF FEAR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024
10:30 A.M.



Hosted by the Circles of Color & St. Peter's

The Gathering of God's People

Please enter in silence. You are invited to use this time to quiet your hearts and minds.

Welcome

The Presiding minister welcomes the People.

A Bidding Prayer

The Deacon or other minister bids the People to faithful prayer and lamentation in this season of fear and uncertainty.

We Turn to God

Call to Worship

We rise in body or spirit as the Presider calls us to worship.

Presider O LORD, God of our salvation;

People We cry out day and night before you.

Presider Let our prayer come before you;

People Incline your ear to our cry!

Presider Let us pray. God of the dispossessed,

All You teach us to hunger for justice even when the weak are shut out and the powerful turn over in their beds: in the heat of our anger and the bitterness of our complaints, give us the courage to protest, the persistence to pray, and the heart to love; through Jesus Christ, the true judge. Amen.

The First Reading

Prayer/Oration | By Francisco X. Alarcón, trans. Francisco Aragón

We sit for the first reading.

I want a god
as my accomplice
who spends nights
in houses
of ill repute
and gets up late
on Saturdays

a god
who whistles
through the streets
and trembles
before the lips
of his lover

a god
who waits in line
at the entrance
of movie houses
and likes to drink
café au lait

a god
who spits
blood from
tuberculosis and
doesn't even have
enough for bus fare

a god
knocked
unconscious
by the belly club
of a policeman
at a demonstration

a god
who pisses
out of fear
before the flaring
electrodes
of torture

a god
who hurts
to the last
bone and
bites the air
in pain

a jobless god
a striking god
a hungry god
a fugitive god
an exiled god
an enraged god

a god
who longs
from jail
for a change
in the order
of things

I want a
more godlike
god

We rise in body or spirit to sing.

A Song of Response

Come Now, O God, When Our Love is Forsaken



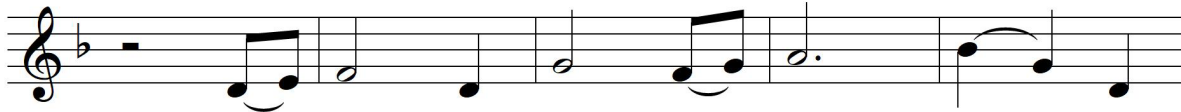
1. Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.
2. Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.
3. Come, lead us out of our self - serv - ing mad - ness.



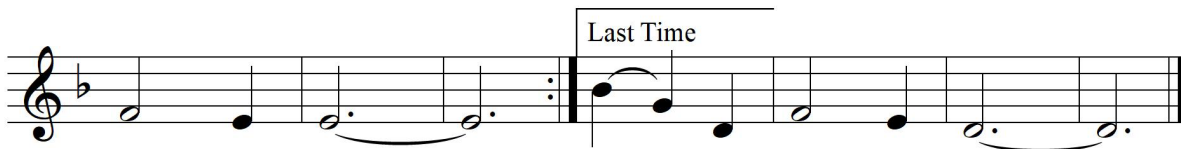
Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.
Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.
Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.



Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.
Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.
Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.



O come, Em - man - u - el. Come, Em -



man - u - el. Come, Em - man - u - el.

Text: David Bjorlin, © 2018, Music: Mark Miller, © 2024 GIA Publications, Inc.

Collect

The Presider prays.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are weighed down in a culture of fear, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

We Name our Complaint

Litany of Complaint

We adopt the posture that feels most helpful to the full expression of their grief and longing.

Leader Hear the cries of your people, O God.

People We will lament and not hold back.

Leader We will refuse to be comforted

People until we have made known to you our sorrow.

Leader We are bereft.

**People Our souls cleave to the dust.
Our eyes are wasted with grief.**

Leader We are drenched with tears.

**People Our hearts melt like wax.
Our souls melt away for sorrow.**

Leader We are poured out like water.

**People Our bodies are racked.
Our eyes have failed for watching for your promise.**

Leader When will you comfort us?

People We open our mouths and pant in pain.

Leader Why do you stand so far off, O Lord,
and hide yourself in time of trouble?

**People Our eyes shed streams of tears.
Our indignation consumes us.**

Leader We cry out to you.

People We grow weary with our groaning.

Leader Early in the morning we call to you.

People Let our cry come before you, O Lord.

Leader Deliver us according to your promise of mercy.

A brief silence is kept.

Leader O Lord, we wait for you.

**People More than sentries wait for the morning,
our souls wait for you alone.**

The Second Reading | Lamentations 1:12-16

We sit for the second reading.

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?
Look and see
if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,
which was brought upon me,
which the Lord inflicted
on the day of his fierce anger.

From on high he sent fire;
it went deep into my bones;
he spread a net for my feet;
he turned me back;
he has left me stunned,
faint all day long.

My transgressions were bound into a yoke;
by his hand they were fastened together;
they weigh on my neck,
sapping my strength;
the Lord handed me over
to those whom I cannot withstand.

The Lord has rejected
all my warriors in the midst of me;
he proclaimed a time against me
to crush my young men;
the Lord has trodden as in a winepress
the virgin daughter Judah.

For these things I weep;
my eyes flow with tears;
for a comforter is far from me,
one to revive my courage;
my children are desolate,
for the enemy has prevailed.

Psalm of Lament: 102:1-11

We adopt the posture that feels most helpful to the full expression of our grief and longing. The Cantor chants the psalm.

Collect

We rise in body or spirit, and the Presider prays.

Troubled God, in every generation you call your people to contend against the brutality of sin and betrayal:
Keep us steadfast even in our fear and uncertainty, so that we may follow where Jesus has led the way.

Amen.

The Third Reading | Jeremiah 12:1-4

We sit for the third reading.


You will be in the right, O Lord,
when I lay charges against you,
but let me put my case to you.
Why does the way of the guilty prosper?
Why do all who are treacherous thrive?
You plant them, and they take root;
they grow and bring forth fruit;
you are near in their mouths
yet far from their hearts.
But you, O Lord, know me;
you see me and test me; my heart is with you.
Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter,
and set them apart for the day of slaughter.
How long will the land mourn
and the grass of every field wither?
For the wickedness of those who live in it,
the animals and the birds are swept away,
and because people said, "He is indifferent to our ways."

We rise in body or spirit to sing.

A Song of Response

Give Me Jesus

Refrain:



The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the refrain: "Give me Je - - sus, give me Je - - sus". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus." The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating long notes.

African American Traditional

Collect

Said in unison.

Our souls are bereft of peace; we have forgotten what happiness is. So we say, “gone is our glory and all that we had hoped for from the Lord.” The thought of our affliction and our homelessness is wormwood and fall! Our souls continually think of it and are bowed down within us. But this we call to mind, and therefore we have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God’s mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness – you are our portion; therefore, we will hope in you! Amen.

Tearing the Garment

We share in sacred silence. During this time, you are invited to come forward to the altar and tear a piece of the garment as a physical act of lament. Torn pieces may be laid upon the altar as an act of offering.

We Confess our Trust in God

We rise in body or spirit to sing and hear the proclamation of the Holy Gospel.

A Song of Good News

Advent Acclamation

Al - le - lu - - - ia, Al - le - lu - - - ia!

O come, O come Great Mys - - - ter - y, to

o - pen minds and set our hearts free. En - light - en us to

hear your voice. Send us all peace, and fill us with your joy.

We wait, we hope, we yearn, we pray for you to

o - pen us and make all things new. We wait, we hope, we

yearn, we pray for you to o - pen us and make all things new.

Text and Arrangement: Lacey Brown. Music: French processional, 15th cent.

The Holy Gospel

Mark 15:33-39

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion who stood facing him saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

The Homily

The Rev. Carla Robinson

We share in sacred silence and prayer after the homily.

The Affirmation of our Faith

We rise in body or spirit to affirm the faith we have received.

We believe in God above us,
maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon,
of water and earth,
of all humanity and creation.

We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor,
tortured and nailed to a tree.
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth
to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven
to be everywhere present,
and his kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the church,
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and eternal life. Amen.

We Offer Prayers for the Church and the World

The Deacon or another minister bid us to prayer. The People respond with words in bold.

O God our creator, You entrusted your good earth and those who live in it to our care and delight. We pray:

For all who are in captivity to debt, whose lives are cramped by fear from which there is no turning except through your abundant harvest.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

For all who depend on the earth for their daily food and fuel, whose forests are destroyed for the profits of a few.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

For all who are silenced, who are persecuted for speaking the truth, who are oppressed by unjust laws, who labor in poverty, who long for a harvest of justice.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

For all who are in captivity to greed and waste and boredom, whose harvest joy is choked with things they do not need.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Turn us again from our captivity and restore our vision, that our mouth may be filled with laughter and our tongue with singing.

Amen.

We Offer Christ's Peace to One Another

We share a sign of Christ's peace with one another.

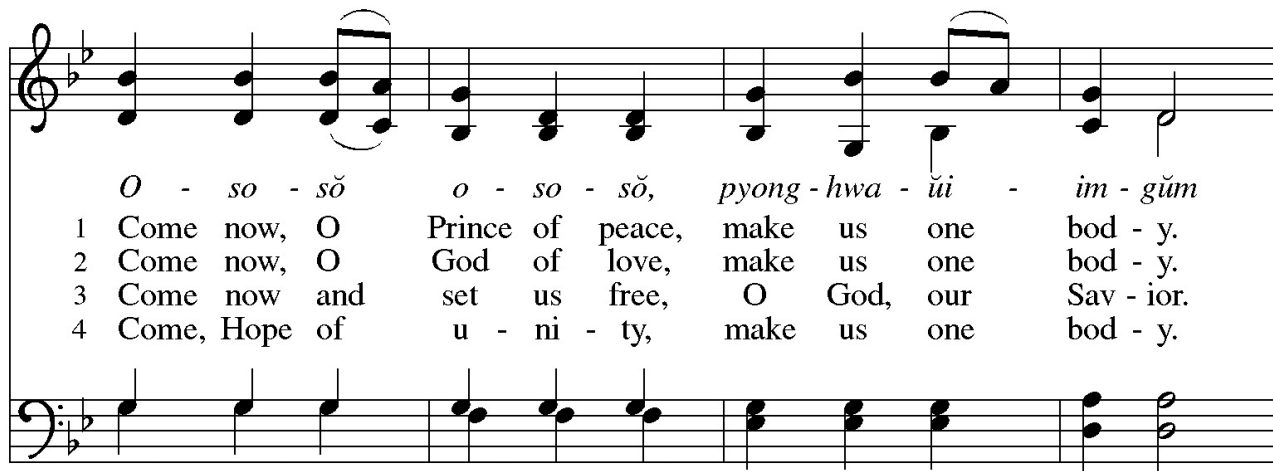
We Share Holy Communion

We Offer the Gifts of our Hearts and Hands

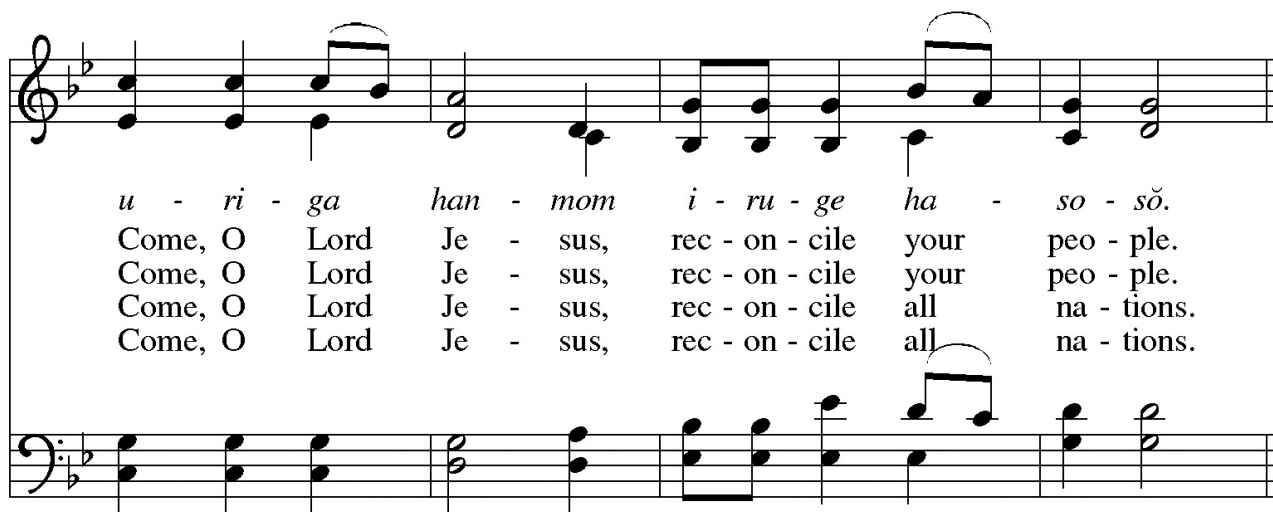
We rise in body or spirit to offer the fruits of our hearts and hands as we sing.

Offertory

Come Now, O Prince of Peace



O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ũi - im - gŭm
1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text and Music by Geonyong Lee; tr. Marion Pope

We Give Thanks for the Gifts of God

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Presider continues,

Worship and praise belong to you, Maker of heaven and earth, in every place and at all times, in sorrow and in joy. For, in the beginning, you filled the void and put chaos to flight, bringing order to your creation, in which you are well pleased. In Christ, your Son, you know the sufferings of the world. He has taken up our pain and sorrows, to bring us peace, and heal our wounds.

Through your Holy Spirit you proclaim good news to the poor; you comfort the broken hearted, announcing freedom to the captives and release from all that imprisons us. As children of your redeeming purpose, seeking wholeness in our broken lives, we offer you our praise with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending glory:

Sanctus

S130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

From Franz Schubert, *Deutsche Messe*. Arr. Ivar Hillesland

The Presider continues,

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving God, for you have redeemed us through your Holy Child. By his life and sacrificial death, he conquered the powers of sin and evil, transforming our lament and freeing us to praise you. By your power you raised him to new life. He broke the bonds of sin and death, and set your people free to be his Body in the world.

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his disciples, he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: “Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me.”

We now obey his command.

**All: We recall his blessed passion and death,
 his glorious resurrection and ascension;
 and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.**

Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful God, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by your Spirit’s life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptized into the fellowship of Christ’s Body to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of Blessed Mary, the apostles and prophets, and of all our brothers, sisters, and siblings, living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. **Amen.**

Disciples’ Prayer

Presider In the spirit of Christ’s teaching, we now pray.

Presider and People

**Mother of us all, who dwells within and beyond,
Sacred is your name.
May your holy vision for collective flourishing
come to fruition among us.
May your dreams of justice, love, compassion,
and connection be enfolded on earth.
Provide us today with what we need to be nourished
in body, soul, and heart.
Forgive us for the harm we cause
as we seek to forgive those who have harmed us.
Lead us away from everything that destroys
and liberate us from the hands of evil.
For you are the ultimate source of hope.
Your power-with exceeds all power-over.
Your presence incites eternal wonder.
All praise to you, our comfort and strength.
Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

We share in sacred silence as the bread is broken.

Fraction Anthem

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way. Lamb of God,
you take a-way our sins. Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world. Have mer-cy on us.
Grant us peace, lov-ing God.
Grant us peace, Grant us peace, lov-ing God.

Text: Traditional. Music: Ivar Hillesland.

We Share the Gifts of God

The Presider invites the People to share God's gifts of bread and wine. To receive the bread, hold out your hands. To receive the cup, assist the Eucharistic Minister by guiding the cup to your mouth. To receive by intinction, hold the bread in your hand and the Eucharistic Minister will dip the bread in the wine and place it back in your hand for to you to consume. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest to indicate this to the Priest.

Communion Song

Sung by all:

I Choose Love

1. Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
the time is drawing nigh.

Children, don't grow weary,
children, don't grow weary,
children, don't grow weary
till your work is done.

2. Darker midnight lies before us,
darker midnight lies before us,
darker midnight lies before us,
the time is drawing nigh.

3. Lo, the morning soon is breaking,
Lo, the morning soon is breaking,
Lo, the morning soon is breaking,
the time is drawing nigh.

Keep Your Lamps, Trimmed and Burning. African American Spiritual. Text by Lindy Thomson. Music by Mark Miller.

We share in sacred silence.

Post-Communion Prayer

Presider Let us pray. Compassionate God,

**All You have fed us with your broken body and offered us a share in your new life.
We thank you that you weep with us, gather us in our brokenness, and walk with us
through our fears and grief. May we who have celebrated your loving presence, find
our hearts healed to sing your praise again, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We Go in Peace to Love and Serve God in the World

The Blessing

May the God who brings heaven close to earth give truth to our judgment and flame to our longing that our hearts might be ready to be born again in love; and the blessing of the One, Holy, and Undivided Trinity be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Presider Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Credits:

Call to Worship Collect, and Blessing - Steven Shakespeare, *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*

First Reading Cycle Collect – Adapted from Collect for Advent III, BCP

Second Reading Cycle Collect – Daily Prayers for All Seasons

Litany of Complaint – Enriching our Worship 5

Affirmation of Faith – Adapted from the Iona Community

Prayers of the People, Eucharistic Prayer, Post-communion Prayer – Scottish Liturgy, 1982

The Disciples' Prayer – The Rev. Jade Kaiser, enfleshed.com



Who are the Circles of Color?

The Circles of Color are mutually supportive grassroots communities for resource sharing, networking, personal support, addressing issues of racism, encouraging leadership development among our POC church communities, and connecting people of color with what they need emotionally and spiritually to be who God is calling them to be.

Visit circlesofcolor.org to learn more.



We are a welcoming and fearless community that provides an inclusive, caring space for reconciliation and transformation.

Join us as we practice our faith in Jesus.

The Reverend Nat Johnson, Priest-in-Charge

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