



A Service of Lament, Repentance, and Reconciliation

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh

July 5, 2020

*Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices.
You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. John 16:20*

Please begin the service in silence with your microphone muted. A welcome will be offered by the Dean of the Cathedral, The Very Rev. Aidan Smith.

Officiant: O God, make speed to save us.

People: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Psalm Appointed

Psalm 90 *Domine, refugium*

- 1 Lord, you have been our refuge *
from one generation to another.
- 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, *
from age to age you are God.
- 3 You turn us back to the dust and say, *
"Go back, O child of earth."
- 4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *
and like a watch in the night.
- 5 You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
- 6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
- 7 For we consume away in your displeasure; *
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.
- 8 Our iniquities you have set before you, *
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
- 9 When you are angry, all our days are gone; *
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

10 The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; *
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.

11 Who regards the power of your wrath? *
who rightly fears your indignation?

12 So teach us to number our days *
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

13 Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? *
be gracious to your servants.

14 Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning; *
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

15 Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us *
and the years in which we suffered adversity.

16 Show your servants your works *
and your splendor to their children.

17 May the graciousness of the LORD our God be upon us; *
prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

First Lesson *Lamentations 1:12-16*

Reader: A Reading from Lamentations.

“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.

¹³ “From on high he sent fire;
into my bones he made it descend;
he spread a net for my feet;
he turned me back;
he has left me stunned,
faint all the day long.

¹⁴“My transgressions were bound into a yoke;
by his hand they were fastened together;
they were set upon my neck;
he caused my strength to fail;
the Lord gave me into the hands
of those whom I cannot withstand.

¹⁵“The Lord rejected
all my mighty men in my midst;
he summoned an assembly against me
to crush my young men;
the Lord has trodden as in a winepress
the virgin daughter of Judah.

¹⁶“For these things I weep;
my eyes flow with tears;
for a comforter is far from me,
one to revive my spirit;
my children are desolate,
for the enemy has prevailed.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Reflection on Lament

The Rev. Eric McIntosh, Priest-In-Charge, St. James, Penn Hills

Second Lesson *Revelation 7: 9-17*

Reader: A Reading from Revelation.

⁹After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵“Therefore they are before the throne of God,
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Reflection on Repentance

The Rt. Rev. Bishop Dorsey W. M. McConnell, VIII Bishop of Pittsburgh

Litany of Repentance

The Officiant begins the prayers with the people responding, “Have mercy on us, Lord.”

Dear people of God, our history is marred by oppression, by slavery, by internment, by theft of land and culture, and by the forces of racism that attack human dignity. The sin of racism is woven into our lives and our cultures, in small and great ways, in things done and things left undone.

God, who in the beginning created all peoples in his image, proclaims in the Scriptures a vision of our destiny-- of every nation, tribe, and language gathered before the throne of God in the unity of the Church. The presence of God is found in all God’s children, and it is the calling of the Church to manifest this presence, to make it known through the reconciling love of Jesus Christ our great High Priest. And so, we gather today as one church, the Body of Christ, to pray for forgiveness, confess our sins, and make visible the reconciliation won in the Cross of Christ for the whole world to see. So, let us now kneel before God and humbly confess our sins.

Silence is then kept for a time.

Most holy and merciful Father:

We confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints
in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault
in thought, word, and deed;
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

The Officiant continues

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have harmed one another by our prejudice and bias in ways both known and unknown to us.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been indifferent to the pain, suffering, and death of our sisters and brothers.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have decried violence, while overlooking the inequity and frustration from which it arises.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have found shelter, health, and economic gain in policies and systems that benefit our families and not our neighbors.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been fearful of those different from us. Decades of mistrust have built walls between us and divided us from one another. We have not heard or believed the experiences of our brothers and sisters.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have not seen you, Christ, in the face of the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, and the prisoner. We have not shared the good things we have been given. We have blamed the poor for their poverty, the stranger for their otherness, and the prisoner for their bondage.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have preferred order over justice, the companionship of friends over fellowship with our adversaries, and comfort over the struggle for a lasting peace.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have quietly held good intentions. We have often kept silent, indifferent or unaware that justice delayed is justice denied.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have found solace in our systems of power, in our own resistance to change, in our own sameness.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

Above all, we have failed to act with courage for the sake of love.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We ask you to hear us, O Lord God: have mercy on us, grant us courage and conviction, and strengthen us to love one another as Christ has loved us.

We ask you to hear us, good Lord.

Lord, have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

Officiant and People

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.

Officiant Lord, hear our prayer;
People And let our cry come to you.
Officiant Let us pray

The Officiant then says one or more of the following Collects

Collect for Social Justice

Almighty God, who created us in your own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

For the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty and merciful God, in your goodness keep us, we pray, from all things that may hurt us, that we, being ready both in mind and body, may accomplish with free hearts those things which belong to your purpose; Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Then may be said

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Officiant then concludes with the following

Officiant Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen. *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

*All are welcome to join the dialogue on Race and Reconciliation following today's service.
Please remain online to join the conversation.*