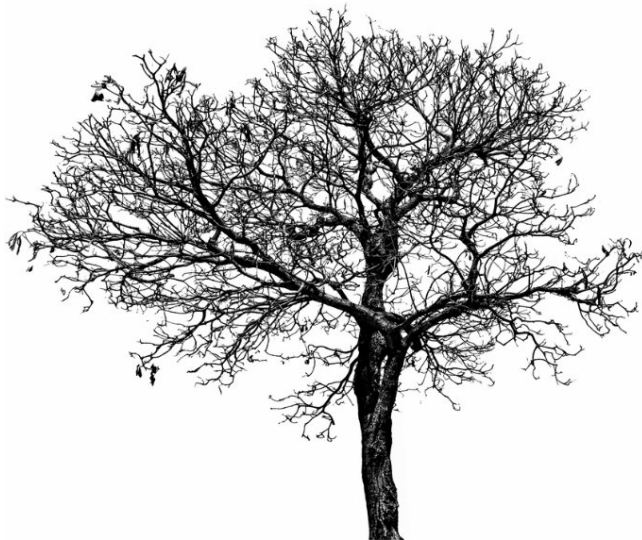


“How Long, Oh Lord?”

a service of lament



Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus
Concordia Seminary
March 12, 2021

SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING
The Fourth Week of Lent

Observing laments of the Seminary community.

Pre-Service Music

Opening Versicles: Lent (*stand if able*)

p. 260

A Responsory of Lament (*kneel if able*)

Pss. 13, 60, 74, 22

L: How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?

C: How long will you hide your face from me?

L: How long must I take counsel in my soul
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?

C: How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

L: Consider and answer me, O Lord my God;

C: light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

L: lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"

C: lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

L: O God, you have rejected us, broken our defenses;

C: you have been angry; oh, restore us.

L: You have made the land to quake; you have torn it open;

C: repair its breaches, for it totters.

L: You have made your people see hard things;

C: you have given us wine to drink that made us stagger.

L: How long, O God, is the foe to scoff?

C: Is the enemy to revile your name forever?

L: Why do you hold back your hand, your right hand?

C: Take it from the fold of your garment and destroy them!

L: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**C: Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my
groaning?**

L: O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,

C: and by night, but I find no rest.

Collect (based on Psalm 44)

L: O God, whose deeds of old have been made known among your people, and whose Son joined in our frailties, awake and rouse yourself! Do not hide your face from your people forever! Instead, visit us with your salvation in the present time and strengthen us in hope for eternal deliverance, that, with hope in your salvation, we may remain steadfast in faith. Through Jesus Christ, you Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever,

C: Amen.

Reading (*sit*)

Psalm 44

Homily

Silence for Lament and Reflection (*kneel as able*)

During this time, you are invited to silently lament the experiences in your life and the lives of others that do not seem to fit the promises of God's mercy. As many laments are too difficult to carry alone, a bell will chime symbolizing the laments of brothers and sisters in Christ lamenting with you and with whom you lament.

A Litany of Lament (*kneel as able*)

L: O Lord,

C: how long?

L: O Christ,

C: how long?

L: O Lord,

C: how long?

L: O Christ,

C: hear us.

L: God the Father, in heaven,

C: have mercy.

L: God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

C: have mercy.

L: God the Holy Spirit,

C: have mercy.

L: Be gracious to us.

C Spare us, good Lord.

L: Be gracious to us.

C: Help us, good Lord.

L: By the mystery of Your holy incarnation;
by Your holy nativity;
by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation;
by Your agony and bloody sweat;
by Your cross and Passion;
by Your precious death and burial;
by Your glorious resurrection and ascension;
and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

C: Help us, good Lord.

L: In all time of our tribulation;
in all time of our prosperity;
in the hour of death;
and in the day of judgment:

C: Help us, good Lord.

L: We poor sinners implore You

C: to hear us, O Lord.

L: We lament a year of coronavirus
Its death
Its despair
Its division
Its fear
Its isolation
Its alienation
Its confusion

C: How long, Oh Lord?

L: We lament the things the coronavirus has taken
Lost loved ones
Lost opportunities to mourn
Lost joys
Lost time together
Lost friendships
Lost trust
Lost celebrations of marriage, birthdays, births, and anniversaries

C: How long, Oh Lord?

L: We lament the joy we have lost at this seminary
Lost Call Days
Lost fellowship
Lost community built around food, and drink, and laughter

C: How long, Oh Lord?

L: We lament lost formation
In conversations with professors missed
In fellowship with students gone
In the difficulty of isolated learning

C: How long, Oh Lord?

L: We lament lost opportunities for the Gospel
Lost days of worship
Lost in-person worship
Lost preaching
Lost baptisms
Lost Communion

C: How long, Oh Lord?

L: We lament divided communities and peoples
Divisions of political party
Divisions of race
Divisions of class
Divisions of sex
Divisions of belief

C: How long, Oh Lord?

L: We lament those who don't believe in your name
Mothers
Fathers
Brothers
Sisters
Sons
Daughters
Friends
Others near
And those far off

C: How long, Oh Lord?

L: We lament the persecution of our brothers and sisters
The violence done against them because they bear your name
The intimidation of their families

The restrictions on their practice of faith
The political pressure on their communities

C: How long, Oh Lord?

L: We lament failings in Your Church
Abuses of power and people
Division and disunity
Compromise with the world
False and impure doctrine
Unwillingness to forgive
Arrogance
Anger
Suspicion
Fear

C: How long, Oh Lord?

L: We lament failings of body and mind
For chronic pain
For cancer
For depression
For anxiety
For addiction
For eating disorders
For thoughts of suicide

C: How Long, Oh Lord?

L: We lament loss of life
By abortion
By miscarriage
By stillbirth
By accident
By malnourishment
By natural disasters
By disease
By murder
By war
By suicide

C: How long, Oh Lord?

L: We lament loneliness
from infertility
from isolation
from the death of friends or family

from singleness

from exclusion

C: How long, Oh Lord?

L: We lament evil in our nation

Greed

Selfishness

Injustice

Violence

Wantonness with life

Arrogance

Cruelty

Attempts at self-definition

C: How long, Oh Lord?

L: We lament our sin

The sin we welcome

The sin that chases after us

The sins we commit again and again

The sins by which we hurt and harm our neighbor

The sins by which we hurt and harm ourselves

The lack of faith we often show

C: How long, Oh Lord?

L: We lament the persistent work of Satan among us

His works

His ways

His exploitation of our weakness

His stoking of division

His attacking of our insecurities

His attacking of joy in ministry

C: How long, Oh Lord?

L: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C: we implore You to hear us.

L: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy.

L: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy.

L: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: grant us Your peace.

L: O Christ,
C: hear us.

L: O Lord,
C: how long?

L: O Christ,
C: how long?

L: O Lord,
C: how long?

L: Into your hands, Oh Lord, we place our laments, trusting in you to answer them according to your mercy.

C: Amen.

Collect (based on Romans 8)

L: O God, who did not spare Your own Son, but gave Him up for us, and through Him, promised to graciously give us all things; deliver us. We are pressed on every side by tribulation, danger, inner strife, and the subjugation of the creation under sin. Grant us, we pray, Your Spirit who intercedes on our behalf, that as we suffer with Your Son, we may remain in steadfast hope of things unseen, even the redemption of the whole creation. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever,

C: Amen.

Congregational Hymn

“When in the Hour of Deepest Need” LSB 615

Benedicamus and Benediction

p. 267

Post-Service Music

SERVANTS OF THE WORD

Professor Dr. Erik Herrmann
Seminarian Drew Oswald
Professor Dr. James Marriott

Preacher
Liturgist
Organist

JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME YESTERDAY AND TODAY AND FOREVER

Concordia Seminary ✠ Chapel of St. Timothy & St. Titus

9:35 am – 12 March 2021

Materials used today are available electronically if you would like to use them for a special service at your future congregation.

For these materials, **Visit our Facebook page:** Concordia Seminary Life Team.

The Mission Statement for the Concordia Seminary Life Team:

Centered in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Concordia Seminary Life Team equips our seminary community and others to affirm life.

Regular Meetings of the Life Team are the second Saturday of the month in Sieck 201 from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. All necessary COVID-19 precautions are observed. Supper is provided free of charge. Children are welcome with their parents watching them. Our next meeting is tomorrow Saturday, March 13; all are welcome to attend to learn more about the Life Team.

For more about Life Teams, visit:

www.lutheransforlife.org/life-issues/life-team-training/



ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

Today's service aims to hold in tension two seemingly competing realities: God's promises of his mercy and the painful experiences of his people. We affirm both are true. On the one hand, God is good, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and their ruler, and he has promised his people mercy. On the other, his people experience situations which cause frustration, disappointment, anger, doubt, sadness, and disillusionment.

This service *does not* aim to remedy this breach in our reality. Instead, it attempts to marshal the resources of God's people to give voice to the apparent distance between God's mercy and the difficulty of earthly life. Today's liturgy thus follows a pattern of the lament Psalms: we will acknowledge God's power and dominion over the earth; we will deliberately lay our laments before him; and we will resolve the service with a testimony to God's promises in Christ. Our hope is not that our lives will be magically fixed, but that we will be shaped by God's story and therein find a place for our stories, even the parts of those stories that cause us pain or anger.

We also hope this service will allow us a time to listen to the laments of our brothers and sisters in Christ. While some of us may not have any present laments, many in our family in Christ do. The litany for today's service is based on submitted laments from our community. As we lament together, we invite you to hear those laments and recognize that we all live life under the cross. Thus, we pray that these laments are not individual, but communal, and that as the family of Christ we encourage each other all the more as we see the day approaching in which all laments will be answered in the resurrection of our Lord.

Peace be with you,
The Concordia Seminary Life Team