

A service of Lament

Sunday 10th May 2020

Welcome and introduction - a brief explanation of the place of lament in salvation history.

If you have a candle you may like to light it now as a sign of God with us.

All We meet in the presence of God
**who knows our needs,
hears our cries,
feels our pain,
and heals our wounds.**

The Word of God

Some verses from Psalm 141

All **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.
Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,
and guard the door of my lips.

All **Let my prayer rise before you as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

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; do not leave me defenceless.

All **Let my prayer rise before you as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

A reading from the Old Testament

Genesis 32: 22-28

22 The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. 24 Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. 25 When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. 26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." 27 So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." 28 Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed."

Silence in which we may reflect on our own wrestling with God

Psalm 42

1 As the deer longs for the water brooks, so longs my soul for you, O God.

**2 My soul is athirst for God, even for the living God;
when shall I come before the presence of God?**

3 My tears have been my bread day and night, while all day long they say to me, 'Where is now your God?'

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**4 Now when I think on these things, I
pour out my soul:
how I went with the multitude and led
the procession to the house of God,**

5 With the voice of praise and
thanksgiving,
among those who kept holy day.

**6 Why are you so full of heaviness, O
my soul,
and why are you so disquieted within
me?**

7 O put your trust in God;
for I will yet give him thanks,
who is the help of my countenance, and
my God.

**8 My soul is heavy within me;
therefore I will remember you from the
land of Jordan,
and from Hermon and the hill of Mizar.**

9 Deep calls to deep in the thunder of
your waterfalls;
all your breakers and waves have gone
over me.

**10 The Lord will grant his loving-
kindness in the daytime;
through the night his song will be with
me,
a prayer to the God of my life.**

11 I say to God my rock,
'Why have you forgotten me,
and why go I so heavily, while the enemy
oppresses me?'

**12 As they crush my bones, my
enemies mock me;
while all day long they say to me,
'Where is now your God?'**

13 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my
soul,
and why are you so disquieted within me?

**14 O put your trust in God;
for I will yet give him thanks,
who is the help of my countenance,
and my God.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

You are invited to extinguish your candle.

Reflection on Paul's letter to the Romans,
chapter 8, verses 16,17

*Silence; in which we lay before God our
fear, our anger, our sense of desolation,
our inability to understand, our questions.*

Reflection on Paul's letter to the Romans,
chapter 6, verses 5,8

You are invited to relight your candle

Psalm 146

1 Alleluia.
Praise the Lord, O my soul:
while I live will I praise the Lord;
as long as I have any being,
I will sing praises to my God.

**2 Put not your trust in princes,
nor in any human power,
for there is no help in them.**

3 When their breath goes forth, they
return to the earth;
on that day all their thoughts perish.

**4 Happy are those who have the God of
Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the Lord their God;**

5 Who made heaven and earth,
the sea and all that is in them;
who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong and bread to those who hunger.

7 The Lord looses those that are bound; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;

8 The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous;

9 The Lord watches over the stranger in the land; he upholds the orphan and widow; but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.

10 The Lord shall reign for ever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Alleluia.

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

A reading from the New Testament

Revelation 21: 1-7

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; 4 he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." 5 And the one who was seated on the throne

said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6 Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. 7 Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Prayers

Loving and faithful God,
Lead us from death to life,
from falsehood to truth;
lead us from despair to hope,
from fear to trust;
lead us from hate to love,
from war to peace;
for the sake of your Son
Jesus Christ.

Amen

Trusting in the faithfulness of God, let us pray as our Saviour taught us

Our Father in heaven...

Responsory

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
The Lord is the strength of my life.

All **The Lord is my light and my salvation;
The Lord is the strength of my life.**

The light shines in the darkness
And the darkness has not overcome it.

All **The Lord is the strength of my life.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

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