

Opening Worship
Monday, September 19 - 7:45 p.m.
Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church



“Why, O God, do you stand far off?
Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?”

“Where were you when everything was falling apart?
All my days were spent by the telephone that never rang
And all I needed was a call that never came
Where were you?”

“Why, O God, do you stand far off?
Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?”

HYMN: O God, Why Are You Silent? — ELW#703

“How long, O God?
Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide from me?
How long must I bear this pain?
I have sorrow in my soul all day long
How long, O God?”

What do you lament?
What do you wish to yell at God?
Now is the time
With your lips or in your hearts, name your laments.
Dare to give it all to God.

Hear, O God, the laments of your servants
Hear, O God, the laments of your servants

“You found me
You found me lying on the floor,
surrounded
Why’d you have to wait?
Where were you?
Just a little late
You found me
Why’d you have to wait to find me?
You found me
You found me”

HYMN: *How Long, O God?* — ELW #698

“Could you plant
healing words
in my wounds?”

We all are in need of healing
We need each other
We need God

O God, you are God, even when we doubt, fear, rage, and cry.
Be present in all that we are—just as we are.
Hold us and love us as your servants and as your beloved children.
Help us to be receptive to the compassion and love of others.
Help us be attentive to others' needs.
Help us be patient with the process.
Come and find us here, O God, it's not too late — Amen

READING: Ecclesiasticus 30:21-31:6

²¹ Do not give yourself over to sorrow,
and do not distress yourself deliberately.

²² A joyful heart is life itself,
and rejoicing lengthens one's life span.

²³ Indulge yourself and take comfort,
and remove sorrow far from you,
for sorrow has destroyed many,
and no advantage ever comes from it.

²⁴ Jealousy and anger shorten life,
and anxiety brings on premature old age.

²⁵ Those who are cheerful and merry at table
will benefit from their food.

Wakefulness over wealth wastes away one's flesh,
and anxiety about it drives away sleep.

² Wakeful anxiety prevents slumber,
and a severe illness carries off sleep.

³ The rich person toils to amass a fortune,
and when he rests he fills himself with his dainties.

⁴The poor person toils to make a meagre living,
and if ever he rests he becomes needy.

⁵ One who loves gold will not be justified;
one who pursues money will be led astray by it.

⁶ Many have come to ruin because of gold,
and their destruction has met them face to face.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

READING: 2 Corinthians 11:23-33

²³Are they ministers of Christ? I am talking like a madman — I am a better one: with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless floggings, and often near death. ²⁴Five times I have received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked; for a night and a day I was adrift at sea; ²⁶on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from bandits, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers and sisters; ²⁷in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, hungry and thirsty, often without food, cold and naked. ²⁸And, besides other things, I am under daily pressure because of my anxiety for all the churches.

²⁹Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I am not indignant?

³⁰If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. ³¹The God and Father of the Lord Jesus (blessed be he forever!) knows that I do not lie. ³²In Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, ³³but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

READING: Matthew 6:25-34

The holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

²⁵"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing?

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you — you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?'

³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today

The gospel of our Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

HYMN: *There Is a Balm in Gilead* —ELW #614

CREDITS

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING —Throughout the conference, we will not “pass “ the offering plate. Please place your offering in the plate at your convenience or scan the QR code to give online. Offerings will benefit Betela Seminary and the RMS 3E COVID Fund.
Thank you for your generosity!



PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you
and also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give our thanks and praise

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
you have brought us this far along the way.
In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,
but guided us into the path of love and light.
In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will
for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry;
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.
In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good
news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised,
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin

In the night in which he was betrayed,
Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks;
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
his cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we
proclaim the Lord's death until he comes

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day
when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery
and death.

Come, Lord Jesus!

And let the church say, Amen

Amen

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share
this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and
justice in all the world.

Come, Spirit of Freedom!

And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

We pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us in the language of our hearts

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION

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HYMNS

Let Us Break Bread Together —ELW #471

Come to the Table —ELW #481

My Life Flows On in Endless Song —ELW #763

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of life. Be with us this week as we struggle, learn, and have some fun together. Hold us close in your love.

Amen

You are children of God.

Anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. May God—motherly, majestic, and mighty + bless you tonight and always

Amen

HYMN: *Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow —ELW #568*

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding keep our hearts and our minds in Christ

Amen