



Lament

Second Sunday after Trinity

Prelude -

Said quietly in Church as a meditation once you are ready.

Almighty God,

we praise you for the many blessings you have given to those who worship you in this house of prayer: and we pray that all who seek you in this place may find you, and, being filled with the Holy Spirit, may become a living temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Preparation:

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,

set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

All Amen.

**Opening Song VU 579 "The Church is wherever
God's people are praising.**

1. The church is wherever
God's people are praising,
singing God's goodness
for joy on this day.
The church is wherever
disciples of Jesus
remember his story
and walk in his way.

2. The church is wherever
God's people are helping,
caring for neighbours
in sickness and need.
The church is wherever
God's people are sharing
the words of the Bible
in gift and in deed.

Kyrie:

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Woe is me, for I am lost: I am a person of unclean
lips:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Your guilt is taken away, and your sin forgiven:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Readings:

(The full compliment of readings are Jeremiah 20.7-13; Psalm 69.8-11[12-17]18-20*; Romans 6.1b-11; Matthew 10.24-39)

The reading is taken from Jeremiah 20:7-13

Let us prepare ourselves for the word of God

Our hearts and our minds are open

You deceived me, Lord, and I was deceived;
you overpowered me and prevailed.

I am ridiculed all day long;
everyone mocks me.

Whenever I speak, I cry out
proclaiming violence and destruction.

So the word of the Lord has brought me
insult and reproach all day long.

But if I say, "I will not mention his word
or speak anymore in his name,"

his word is in my heart like a fire,
a fire shut up in my bones.

I am weary of holding it in;
indeed, I cannot.

I hear many whispering,
"Terror on every side!

Denounce him! Let's denounce him!"

All my friends

are waiting for me to slip, saying,

"Perhaps he will be deceived;

then we will prevail over him

and take our revenge on him."

But the Lord is with me like a mighty warrior;
so my persecutors will stumble and not
prevail.

They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced;
their dishonour will never be forgotten.

Lord Almighty, you who examine the righteous
and probe the heart and mind,
let me see your vengeance on them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

Sing to the Lord!
Give praise to the Lord!
He rescues the life of the needy
from the hands of the wicked.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The reading is taken from Romans 6:1-11

Let us prepare ourselves for the word of God

Our hearts and our minds are open

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.



Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The two readings today symbolize for me the tradition of 'heart and head.' Jeremiah speaks from the heart, while Paul writes a concise argument from the head in order to convince his hearers of the importance of being dead to sin and alive in Christ.

I have to admit I am a heart person, and much of my own spirituality is a messy wrestling with God. I can sympathize with Jeremiah about times I have felt somehow deceived and wishing to just suppress the message God has called me to witness to in my own ministry. Deep laments are the territory of Jeremiah, and his scribe Baruch as the book of Lamentations and other books in the Bible are attributed to this prophetic voice.

To cry out to God with tears of frustration, a broken and contrite heart is difficult by today's standard of measurement for most Christians, or at least those that perceive Christian behaviour from the outside. Praise, assuredness, and dare I say it, a haughty attitude is what the world normally expects from people of faith.

Like Paul's argument for to die to sin and to be alive in Christ, Jeremiah argues that there is nothing like a good lament to put things in perspective, and with fresh eyes, praise God.



Deception, ridicule, insult, denouncing, waiting for a slip up — these are all images that the Prophet must deal with, they are not made up, but real problems. Lament names those problems, focuses in on them, acknowledges the presence of these thoughts and feelings. Jeremiah also realizes that also his inner stamina to withhold G0d's message he becomes 'weary from holding it all in.' When things get close and personal, the prophets friends wait for him to slip up it seems like the bottom of the pit is reached. It is at that bottom where we feel most alone, scared, disenfranchised, but notice that the image of God as a mighty warrior stands beside Jeremiah. The tune of this song is suddenly changed from lament to praise. The old word Jeremiad means to lament or a long mournful complaint. It is in this long complaint that we find our helplessness and our rescuer. God appears for the prophet in order to strengthen, encourage, and protect.

Admittedly, the heart felt cry is not to everyones liking, and we do have Paul's letter which step by step lays down our sinfulness and our relationship with Christ who conquers sin and death so that we might live with Him in new life. Both readings offer a good honest look at ourselves be it through lament, or to see our sinful nature; and we come to find our situation changed. The actor David Suchet who plays the character Hercule Poirot from the Agatha Christie series once found himself in a hotel room reading the Gideon Bible left in the bedside table. He started with Roman's and by the end of the Epistle came to belief in Christ.

Isn't interesting that within the Bible, any person really can come to the Lord, be they headstrong rationalists preferring Paul's arguments of faith, or passionate lamenters pouring their hearts out with Jeremiah. All people, wth God, end their arguments or their lament with praise. Alive in God through Jesus Christ, or Sing to the Lord! Give praise to the Lord!

Response:

Have you ever felt deceived by the Lord, as Jeremiah writes? Recall when this may have happened.

Did friends ever wait round you hoping you would slip up? What was that like?

What is your lament? Can it end like Jeremiah's — full of praise for the Lord? If you lament now, what might be the lyrics of your song of praise to God?

Intercessions

The prophet Jeremiah is having a hard time. He is frustrated, angry and upset and is letting God know that. God calls Jeremiah to him to lead his people back on to the right track. Some people thought they knew best and laughed at Jeremiah and despised him. They didn't want to be put to shame for the faults they had committed, but didn't get it that God's love is all encompassing and forgiving, they only heard they were at fault and being accused and gave Jeremiah a hard time. Jeremiah is heartbroken and feels abandoned by God. He speaks openly and bluntly with the Lord - Why are you letting this happen, Lord? Yet, he is a man of great faith and doesn't give up!

Lord, when we feel attacked and humiliated by confessing in public to loving and following you, we don't understand and ask :

Why Lord?

Jeremiah's lamenting yet faith in God leads me to pray for people in frustrating situations:

A street worker in a tough township in South Africa:

Another baby on my doorstep. I have 38 children I need to feed 3 times a day. Why me? No doubt the parents are alcoholics or drug addicts - so at odds with life that they can't cope. They must be heartbroken - but why my doorstep? Thank goodness people give me money and food to care for and feed these children - who knows what will happen to these children - especially with Corona!

Loving God, I pray for Hazel in South Africa who cares for these abandoned children, feeding , washing and clothing them. Running an art school for disabled children, organizing birth control measures and much more. We give you thanks for all care workers, health care professionals and people who genuinely care for others' wellbeing throughout the world. Not only caring for victims of

Corona, but for you and me ...
We don't understand why people must suffer so much and
ask:
Why Lord?

**United Nations Report: Creuza Oliveira, a domestic
worker in Brazil**

Born in a family of poor rural workers with no schooling, Oliveira began life as a domestic worker in Bahia, North Eastern Brazil, when she was 10 years old. Unable to balance work and school, she had to pick work and dropped out of school numerous times. At work, Oliveira would be beaten and taunted whenever she broke something, often called lazy, monkey, even "nigger". The physical and psychological abuse was compounded by sexual abuse from the young men in the household where she worked. To top it all off, Oliveira was not paid. Almost half a million domestic workers in Brazil are children and teenagers between 5 and 17 years of age - working without compensation, as slaves," she said. Oliveira is now President of the National Federation of Domestic Workers in Brazil.

Gracious God, we thank you for people able to speak out about their suffering and bring about change. We pray for leaders around the world and in local administrations to not turn a blind eye to discrimination, prejudice and racism, but to be touched by your Holy Spirit, face these challenges and bring about change.
Lord, we don't understand why people must suffer so much and ask:
Why Lord?

Jeremiah felt your calling like a fire in his bones, sometimes he felt burnt out, but could not give up, his heart and soul were on fire for you, he was committed to you. Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself and suffered so much for us. Help us heed and follow your call. Give us a spirit of humility as well as the strength and courage to serve you and stand up to fight injustice in whatever form it confronts your people.

AMEN

Collect:

Almighty and everlasting God,

by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is

alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

In the language of our hearts, let us pray as our Saviour taught us...

A sign of Peace:

We are the body of Christ.

In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

(We share a gesture of peace)

The Blessing:

The Lord God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
the holy and undivided Trinity,
guard you, save you,
and bring you to that heavenly city,
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Conclusion

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
and keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Recessional SOF 405 Now thank we all our God

Now thank we all our God,
with hear and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
in Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed
peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
and guide us when perplexed;
And guard us through all ills
in this world, till the next!

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
The Son, and Him Who reigns
with Them in highest Heaven—
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and Heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Activities

- **Live ACF Worship**

Time: Jun 21, 2020 11:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

**[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76281863448?
pwd=OXhmYUdjSWQzbnVUbVRDd3BiU3kzQT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76281863448?pwd=OXhmYUdjSWQzbnVUbVRDd3BiU3kzQT09)**

Meeting ID: 762 8186 3448

Password: Church

