

SPY WEDNESDAY PSALMS OF LAMENT

Service begins in silence

BLESS THE LORD

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy Name
Bless the Lord, my soul, who rescues me from death

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy Name
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

Leader: Come to the Lord all you who are troubled and sad.

People: Come to our Lord who is tenderness and compassion,
the God who heals every one of your ills.

Leader: Come to the Lord, all you who are weary and
overburdened.

People: Come to our Lord – share His yoke and learn from
Him, for He is gentle and humble, and you will find
rest for your soul.

Leader: Come to the Lord, all you whose spirits are cast down,

People: Come to our Lord who does not quench the wavering
flame or break the crushed reed,
but who faithfully brings justice, pardon, and peace.

Leader: Come, all you who are angry, afraid, or haunted by guilt,

People: Come to our Lord who bids us not to be afraid,
for He has redeemed us—
Come to our God who has called us by name,
in whose eyes we are precious, honored, and loved.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires
known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse our
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that
we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your
holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 50:4-9a

- ⁴ The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue,
to know the word that sustains the weary.
He wakens me morning by morning,
wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.
- ⁵ The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears;
I have not been rebellious,
I have not turned away.
- ⁶ I offered my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;
I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.
- ⁷ Because the Sovereign Lord helps me,
I will not be disgraced.
Therefore have I set my face like flint,
and I know I will not be put to shame.
- ⁸ He who vindicates me is near.
Who then will bring charges against me?
Let us face each other!
Who is my accuser?
Let him confront me!
- ⁹ It is the Sovereign Lord who helps me.
Who will condemn me?

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 70

- ¹ Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; *
 O Lord, make haste to help me.
- ² Let those who seek my life be ashamed
 and altogether dismayed; *
 let those who take pleasure in my misfortune
 draw back and be disgraced.
- ³ Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, *
 because they are ashamed.
- ⁴ Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; *
 let those who love your salvation say for ever,
 "Great is the Lord!"
- ⁵ But as for me, I am poor and needy; *
 come to me speedily, O God.
- ⁶ You are my helper and my deliverer; *
 O Lord, do not tarry.

Hebrews 12:1-3

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Matthew 11:28-30

- ²¹ After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me."
²² His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. ²³ One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. ²⁴ Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means." ²⁵ Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?"
²⁶ Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷ As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly." ²⁸ But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. ²⁹ Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. ³⁰ As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.
³¹ When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to You, Lord Christ

THE PRAYERS

Leader: Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being,
praise his holy name.
Who forgives all your sins,
 And heals all your diseases,
Who redeems your life from the pit
 And crowns you with love and compassion.

Leader: Beloved, let us lift up our prayers to the Lord, who enters the hearts of all who pray and feel they are not heard, who himself suffered pain and humiliation, who carries the burdens of the world, and died so that we might live. Let us bring our sorrow, our anger, our guilt, our shame, our grief, our loss, our fear, our sins, our joys and thanksgivings to the One who hears our prayers.

Lift up your prayers and Psalms of Lament to the Lord.

*After each prayer: Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.***

Leader: Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; 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.**

Hear the word of the Lord through the apostle John:

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. He will wipe every tear

from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ He who testifies to these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming soon.’”

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: With the prophets and the martyrs we cry,

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: In our sorrow and pain we cry

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: With faith and hope we pray

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: Now may the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, that we may abound in hope in the power of the Holy Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God.¹

¹ Portions of the service adapted from the Book of Common Prayer (1979), Common Worship (©The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2000-2005), and <http://www.wellsprings.org.uk/liturgies> (accessed 2009). “Bless the Lord” by Jaques Berthier (©1991 Les Presses de Taizé), used by permission.