

Nos Lamentum

Evening

Welcome to Village Lutheran Church! We greet you in the Name of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

About the service

Tonight's service is entitled *Nos Lamentum* – “We lament”. It aims to hold in tension two seemingly competing realities: God has promised that he will be merciful and good, and yet his human creatures often suffer painfully. On the one hand, God is good and is the Creator of the heavens and the earth. He is in control of all things. Yet his creatures experience suffering, physical and mental pain, frustration, disappointment, anger, doubt, sadness, and disillusionment. We do not attempt to reconcile these realities, but we recognize and honor the reality of suffering and questions it brings.

This service *does not* aim to reconcile this breach in our lives or explain it away. Instead, we will marshal the resources of God's people to give voice to our pain, frustration, and sadness. Tonight's liturgy thus follows a pattern of the lament Psalms: we will acknowledge God's power and dominion over the whole earth and his rule of every person and situation; we will lay our laments before Him, begging, even demanding, salvation and deliverance; and we will resolve the service with a testimony to God's promises in Christ. Our goal is not that suffering will go away. Indeed, we invite all to recognize suffering in their lives and the lives of others without trying to resolve it. Instead, we desire to place our suffering in the hands of God—the God who suffered for and with us and has promised to redeem us. We eagerly, even impatiently, await that redemption. With that waiting comes suffering. It is the two-fold reality of suffering and promised redemption we recognize and honor.

This service will also allow us a time to listen to the laments of our brothers and sisters in Christ and to see the pains of the whole world. While some of us may not have any present laments, many in our Christian family do. The whole world also suffers under the weight of sin and brokenness. 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 in a world of suffering, eagerly anticipating its redemption. Thus, these laments are not individual, but communal, and we pray 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 redeemed in the return of our Lord.

If any questions remain or if you desire pastoral counsel, please contact Pastor Joel Biermann or Vicar Drew Oswald, who are ready to listen. They may be found after the service or contacted at biermannj@csl.edu and vicar@villagelutheranchurch.org.

Peace be with you,
Vicar Drew Oswald

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after the service for light refreshments and a small gift from Village Lutheran Church.

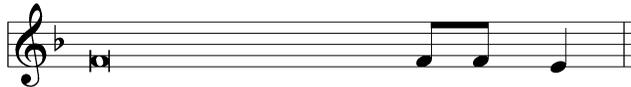
Welcome

Stand

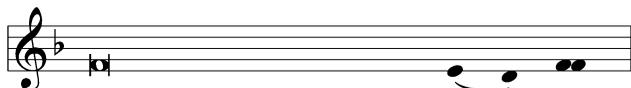
Opening Versicles



L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



C the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



L Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,



C and the day is almost o - ver.



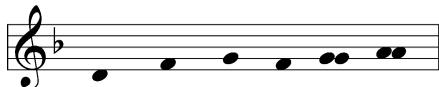
L Let Your light scatter the dark - ness



C and il - lu - mine Your Church.

Phos Hilaron

LSB 244



L Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



C of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



bless - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the

set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.

We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:

You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -

ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:

the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

Thanksgiving for Light

LSB 245

L Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse,

who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of

fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;

may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;

for You are mer - ci - ful, and You love Your whole cre - a - tion



and we, Your creatures, glo-ri-fy You, Father, Son, and Ho-ly Spir-it.



C A - men.

Sit

Psalmody

Refrain

Psalm 43

"La ténèbre"

Jacques Berthier



Choir: refrain, twice (first in French, then in English)

All: refrain

Soloist: Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people,
from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!

All: refrain

Soloist: For You are the God in whom I take refuge; why have you abandoned me?
Why do I go about mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

All: refrain

Soloist: Send out Your light and Your truth; let them lead me;
let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your dwelling!
Then I will go to the altar of God, to God, my exceeding joy,
and I will praise You with the lyre, O God, my God.

All: refrain

Soloist: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him, my salvation and my God.

All: refrain (repeated)

Psalm

Psalm 42

¹As a deer pants for flowing streams,
so pants my soul for you, O God.

²My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.

When shall I come and appear before God?

³My tears have been my food day and night,
while they say to me continually,
“Where is your God?”

⁴These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:

how I would go with the throng
and lead them in procession to the house of God
with glad shouts and songs of praise,
a multitude keeping festival.

⁵Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my salvation ⁶and my God.

My soul is cast down within me;
therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,
from Mount Mizar.

⁷Deep calls to deep
at the roar of your waterfalls;
all your breakers and your waves
have gone over me.

⁸By day the LORD commands his steadfast love,
and at night his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.

⁹I say to God, my rock:

“Why have you forgotten me?

Why do I go mourning

because of the oppression of the enemy?”

¹⁰As with a deadly wound in my bones,

my adversaries taunt me,

while they say to me continually,

“Where is your God?”

¹¹Why are you cast down, O my soul,

and why are you in turmoil within me?

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,

my salvation and my God.

**C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Reading

John 1:1–5

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

Psalm

Psallite

“Lord, from Sorrows Deep I Call” (Psalm 42, para.)

Matt Boswell and Matt Papa

Lord, from sorrows deep I call

When my hope is shaken.

Torn and ruined from the fall,

Hear my desperation.

For so long I've pled and prayed:

God, come to my rescue.

Even so, the thorn remains.

Still, my heart will praise You.

*Storms within my troubled soul —
Questions without answers —
On my faith these billows roll.
God, be now my shelter.
Why are you cast down my soul?
Hope in Him who saves you.
When the fires have all grown cold,
Cause this heart to praise You.*

*Should my life be torn from me,
Every worldly pleasure.
When all I possess is grief,
God, be then my treasure.
Be my vision in the night.
Be my hope and refuge.
Till my faith is turned to sight,
Lord, my heart will praise You.*

*And, oh, my soul, put your hope in God.
My help, my Rock, I will praise Him.
Sing, oh, sing through the raging storm.
You're still my God, my salvation.*

Silent Lamentation

During this time, all gathered are invited to silently lament the experiences in their lives or the lives of others which cause suffering and anguish. As many laments are too difficult to carry alone, a bell will chime symbolizing the laments of brothers and sisters in Christ with whom the assembly cries to the Lord. The format "Lord, I lament _____" may be silently used by the assembly.

Stand

Litany

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 the global pandemic

Its death

Its despair

Its division

Its fear

Its isolation

Its alienation

Its confusion

C **How long, Oh Lord?**

L We lament those things the pandemic has taken

Lost loved ones
Lost opportunities to mourn
Lost joys
Lost celebrations
Lost time together
Lost friendships
Lost trust
Lost faith

C How long, Oh Lord?

L We lament divided communities and peoples
Divisions by politics
Divisions by race
Divisions by class
Divisions by wealth
Divisions by sex
Divisions by ability
Divisions by belief

C How long, Oh Lord?

L We lament evil in our community and nation
Greed
Selfishness
Injustice
Violence
Wantonness with life
Arrogance
Cruelty
Attempts at self-definition

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 for those who do not 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 failings in Your Church

Abuses of power
Abuses of people
Division and disunity
Compromise with the world
False and impure doctrine
Unwillingness to forgive
Deafness to suffering
Indifference to injustice
Arrogance
Anger
Suspicion
Fear

C How long, Oh Lord?

L We lament failings of body and mind

For chronic pain and illness
For cancer
For incurable disease
For depression
For anxiety
For addiction
For eating disorders
For thoughts of suicide

C How Long, Oh Lord?

L We lament abuse

Of children
Of women
Of our elders
Of the poor
Of the suffering
Of the weak
Of those with no voice

By those in positions of power
By those in positions of trust
By those who should do better

C How long, Oh Lord?

L We lament broken families
Broken by death
Broken by selfishness
Broken anger
Broken by violence
Broken by distance

C How long, Oh Lord?

L We lament death
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
from disillusionment

C How long, Oh Lord?

L We lament doubt and despair of your promises
Because of sin from within
Because of sins of others
Because of abuse and trauma
Because of the cares of the world
Because suffering
Because of loss

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 in our midst
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 you to answer them according to your mercy, and awaiting your final deliverance in the day of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Collect for Peace

L O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 251

L Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C **Our Father who art in heaven,**
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn

“Take Heart”



1. Take heart, O ser-vants of the Lord, a - mid the cloud - y jour - ney; though
2. Serve not the dark de - sires with - in, nor wick - ed foes, nor temp - ters; their
3. We walk by faith and not by sight while liv - ing in this dark - ness, but



shad - ows seem to shade His Word, they can - not hide His mer - cy. When
sub - tle lies would lure us in, but Christ our King will con - quer. We
grief will change in - to de - light when Christ re - turns in bright - ness. Let



prov - i - dence is man - i - fest in tem - pests of af - flic - tion, be -
firm - ly stand in Je - sus' might a - gainst en - tic - ing e - vil. He
us take heart un - til we see the ris - en Lamb of suf - fring; then



hind the storm is Je - sus Christ, the sun of our sal - va - tion.
dress - es us in ra - diant light: the ar - mor of His gos - pel.
we be - fore His throne will be like Him, for - ev - er shin - ing!

Text: Dustin Battles, b. 1986

Tune: ANTHONY; Dan Kreider, b. 1981

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Benedicamus

LSB 252

L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

LSB 252

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C **Amen.**

Acknowledgments

Evening Prayer from Lutheran Service Book

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