

As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.

May we together experience the presence of God

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We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord

Prelude

Welcome



“Born to Trouble”

Worship Series

Week 4

Friends it is time to take a breath; you’ve earned it. We’ve come this far through the experience with Job, and you are to be commended. But we’re not quite done. We must continue to stand in solidarity with those who are hurting.

So, what do we do in worship this week? We give thanks, even as we wait for the coming of the kin-dom. We celebrate new life and new hope, even as we grieve death and loss. We point toward the glimpses of grace at work in our community, even while we confess the times “we have failed to be an obedient church”. So today, we sing the praises of a God who answers prayer, even while we continue to call upon the Spirit to bring justice and an end to hate.

Whenever we worship, we worship in this tension. It is not an end to joy, or the laughter of the redeemed. But it is a reminder that we are pilgrims on the way, disciples making disciples for the transformation – not the transformed, but the ongoing transformation – of the world. We embrace the mission with hope and a glimpse of the kin-dom.

When Job’s eyes were opened to the totality of God, he was humbled. We too are humbled by the immensity of the need, but we are also lifted by the power of love of the God we worship. The Spirit works with us and through us; let us offer ourselves as willing vessels of that grace.

A Call to Worship (Psalm 126)

126:1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

126:2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

126:3 The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

126:4 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

126:5 May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

126:6 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

PRAYER

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

Rev. Reed Lessing, The Book of Job: Blessed Be the Name of the Lord, Concordia Seminary, Lenten Sermon Series, 17,

P: Loving and merciful Father, when overcome by grief, with Job we wonder what happened to your love and your wonderful plan for our lives?

C: It feels as though our prayers fall on deaf ears.

P: Like Job, we begin looking for you to the east, to the west, to the north and the south—all the four points of the horizon and the compass—but you are nowhere to be found.

C: The darkness threatens to swallow us whole and we feel as though we are drowning in the ocean of divine silence.

P: Lord, then we are tempted to do something cheap or dirty,

C: Or something that will bring great shame upon us and those we love.

ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: Hear the word of the LORD from Job 42:12, "The LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first." Our God turns crucifixions into resurrections. What was dead is now alive and what was once defeat is now an everlasting triumph. Christ is alive. He forgives you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: I know that my Redeemer lives!

Praise Hymn FWS #2196 We Walk By Faith

Author: Henry Alford (alt.)

Composer (attr.): Hugh Wilson

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**1 We walk by faith, and not by sight;
with gracious words we hear
of him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
but we believe him near.**

**2 We may not touch his hands and side,
nor follow where he trod;
yet in his promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"**

**3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief,
and may our faith abound;
to call on you when you are near,
and seek where you are found:**

**4 That when our life of faith is done
in realms of clearer light
may we behold you as you are,
in full and endless sight.**

**5 We walk by faith, and not by sight;
with gracious words we hear
of him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
but we believe him near.**

We Hear God's Word

New Testament Reading..... Job 42:1-6, 10-17 (NRSV)

Job Is Humbled and Satisfied

42 Then Job answered the Lord:

2 "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

3 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,

things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 4 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me.' 5 I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; 6 therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

Job's Fortunes Are Restored Twofold

10 And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends; and the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. 11 Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they ate bread with him in his house; they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him; and each of them gave him a piece of money[a] and a gold ring. 12 The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys. 13 He also had seven sons and three daughters. 14 He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. 15 In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters; and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers. 16 After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children, and his children's children, four generations. 17 And Job died, old and full of days.

The word of God for the People of God, **Thanks Be to God**

Children's Message

Faith Hymn UMH #75 "All people that on earth do dwell"

Author: William Kethe
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**1 All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the LORD with cheerful voice.
Serve him with joy, his praises tell,
come now before him and rejoice!**

**within his courts his praise proclaim!
Let thankful songs your tongues
employ.
O bless and magnify his name!**

**2 Know that the LORD is God indeed;
he formed us all without our aid.
We are the flock he surely feeds,
the sheep who by his hand were made.
3 O enter then his gates with joy,**

**4 Because the LORD our God is good,
his mercy is forever sure.
His faithfulness at all times stood
and shall from age to age endure.**

Meditation

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

(Inspired by Mark 10:46-52, Job 42, Hebrews 7:23-28)

Heavenly Father, like Job, when we ask for your presence and intervention, we will end up on knees, astounded at your greatness, and humbled by our own unworthiness.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

Holy Spirit, when we tearfully share our hopes and dreams with you, you promise a harvest of joy. Fill us with expectations of your goodness.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

Lord Jesus Christ, high priest and intercessor for our sins, help us live as your children, trusting that we are also children of the Heavenly Father.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

Lord Jesus, healer of Bartimaeus' blindness, help us see you in this world active in love, and help us see you by our side, so we may walk your way without stumbling.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

Lord Jesus, Great Physician, hear now the names of those we know who need your healing _____.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

The love of God has won. The new life has begun.. In the Name of the One who paid the price, we pray. Our Father...

Departing Hymn #170 "O How I Love Jesus"

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**1. There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
it sounds like music in my ear,
the sweetest name on earth.**

Refrain:

**O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
because he first loved me!**

**2. It tells me of a Savior's love,
who died to set me free;
it tells me of his precious blood,
the sinner's perfect plea. [Refrain]**

**3. It tells of one whose loving heart
can feel my deepest woe;
who in each sorrow bears a part
that none can bear below. [Refrain]**

SENDING FORTH:

Send us forth, O God, with
every breath a thanksgiving,
every thought wrapped in compassion,
every word filled with kindness, and
every deed a channel of Love.
Through your grace may our lives become a prayer.
Amen.