



**Service of Prayer and Lament
The Lutheran Center Chapel**

Friday July 8, 2016 • 11:30 a.m.

+ GATHERING +

Gathering Songs

(As the assembly sings the gathering songs, please be invited to come forward and light a candle in memory of someone who has died from violence of any kind.)

Just a Closer Walk with Thee (TFF #253)



Refrain Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it, Je - sus, is my plea;
1 I am weak but thou art strong; Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



dai - ly walk - ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Ref.*
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Ref.*
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore. *Ref.*



Precious Lord, Take My Hand (TFF #193)



1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me
2. When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger
3. When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws



stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
near, When my life is al - most gone,
near, And the day is past and gone,



Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the
Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand lest I
At the riv - er I stand, Guide my feet, hold my

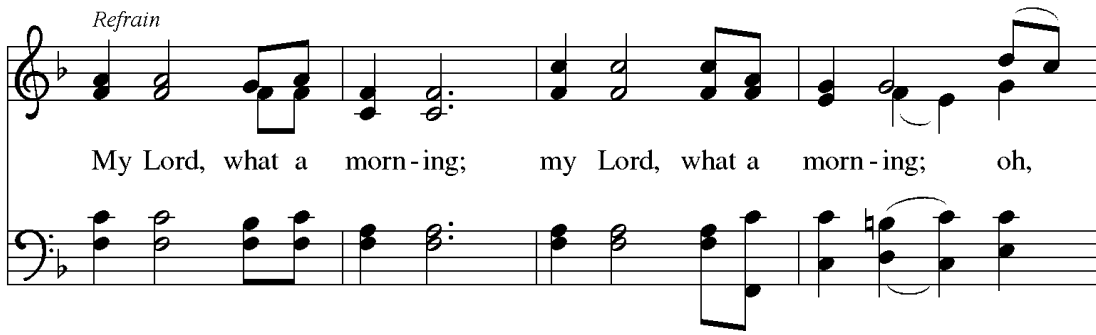


light, Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
fall. Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
hand. Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

My Lord, What a Morning (TFF #40)

Verse 1, sung by a soloist.

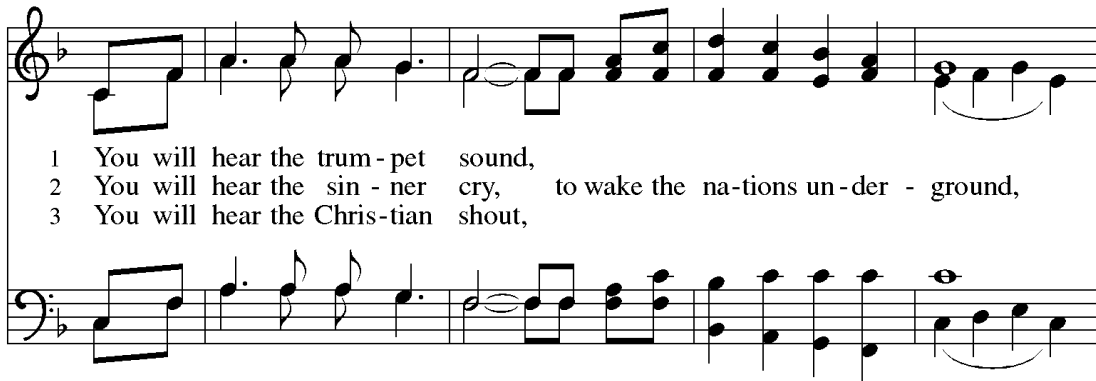
Refrain



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,

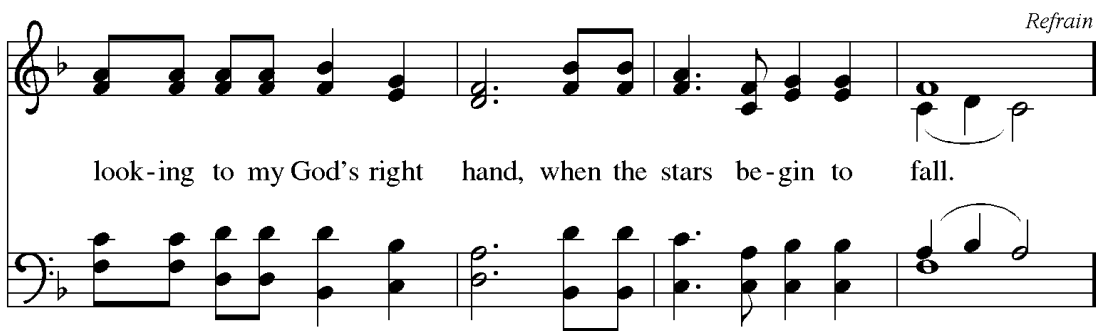


my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.



1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,
2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

Refrain



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

The assembly is invited to stand and face the font as they are able.

Lamenting a sense of despair

With Job of old we cry out:
Everywhere the innocent suffer.
Our desires and efforts achieve us little.
O God, are you good, yet do nothing to help us?
Our answers have holes, and we fall through.

The assembly is invited to voice public laments aloud or in silence.

For what do we lament?

For what do we come before God this day and cry out?

For what do we confess?

The prayers continue.

Hear us, O God:
Hear us, O God.

Show yourself, O God:
Show yourself, O God.

Give us life:
Give us life.

Silence is kept.

Hear these words, receive their power:
The majesty of God the Father undergirds all that is.
The mercy of God the Son accepts our despair.
The comfort of God the Spirit embraces us in communities of care.

Thanks be to God.
Thanks be to God.
Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope.
Where anxiety is infections and widening, grant peace and reassurance.
Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination.
Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

+ WORD +

First Reading

Isaiah 40:6-11

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.
⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"
¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 13

¹How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
²How long must I bear pain in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?
³Consider and answer me, O LORD my God!
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,
⁴and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed";
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.
⁵But I trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
⁶I will sing to the LORD,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Ephesians 4:25—5:2

²⁵So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account

¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation

Silence follows and is marked by the ringing of a bell.

Hymn

The assembly stands and joins in singing.

There is a Balm in Gilead (TFF #185)

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,
2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,
3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."
and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Prayers of Intercession

The assembly begins prayer by singing:

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (TFF #247)

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff. The first system ends with a double bar line. The second system ends with a double bar line.

Each petition ends with: Listen Lord.

The assembly responds, singing "Lord, listen to your children praying."

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and let us pray as you taught:

+ SENDING +

Blessing

May God give you grace never to sell yourself short,
grace to risk something big for something good,
and grace to remember that the world is too dangerous for anything
but truth and too small for anything but love.

In the name of the Father, and +the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Sending Song

Why Should I Feel Discouraged/*His Eye Is on the Sparrow* (TFF #252)



1 Why should I feel dis - cour - aged, why should the shad - ows come,
2 "Let not your heart be trou - bled," his ten - der word I hear,
3 When - ev - er I am tempt - ed, when - ev - er clouds a - rise,



why should my heart be lone - ly and long for heav'n and home,
and rest - ing on his good - ness, I lose my doubts and fears;
when song gives place to sigh - ing, when hope with - in me dies,



when Je - sus is my por - tion? My con - stant friend is he:
though by the path he leads me but one step I may see:
I draw the clos - er to him, from care he sets me free:



his eye is on the spar - row, and I know he watch - es me;
his eye is on the spar - row, and I know he watch - es me;
his eye is on the spar - row, and I know he watch - es me;



his eye is on the spar - row, and I know he watch - es me.
his eye is on the spar - row, and I know he watch - es me.
his eye is on the spar - row, and I know he watch - es me.

Refrain



I sing be - cause I'm hap - py, I sing be - cause I'm free,



for his eye is on the spar - row, and I know he watch - es me.

Peace

The assembly shares in the peace of Christ.



Those who wish to remain, the chapel will be open for a time of reflection, mourning, and prayer.

If you so desire, there will be individuals available for prayer and conversation following the service.

Acknowledgments:

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