# Welcome

In Biblical lament, the people of God cry out to the Lord and express sadness and regret for what we have done, what we have failed to do or what has been done to us. We are the Church, the body of Christ, and we have not faithfully loved and cared for others, particularly people who have disabilities – both apparent and non-apparent. We have caused hurt and offence at times, although it may have been unintentional. We have not been willing to bear and endure all things for the love of others who are different from us. This evening, we will lament the harm we have caused and the harm that has been caused to us, and the limited welcome the Church has for people who have disabilities and their families. As we cry out to the Lord, we trust that He will meet us with His grace and healing.

# Opening Hymn: Only a Holy God

<https://youtu.be/8FOuQ-u9w5g?si=Yun0WmWZusRUrr5K>

# Call to Worship and Collect

O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

**You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**

I will comfort you, says the Lord

**As a mother comforts her child, so you shall be comforted.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

God of all mercies, you made us in your own image, and you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ. Look with compassion upon the whole human family. Take away the arrogance, judgment and lack of compassion which infect our hearts. Break down the walls that separate us, and unite us in bonds of love. Work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth, so that, in your good time, all peoples – those who are disabled and those who are not – may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne. You protect us when we are fragile and give us courage for each new day. Help us to understand the power and wisdom of human vulnerability, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who alone has the words of life. **Amen.**

# Song: Lord, I Need You

<https://youtu.be/LuvfMDhTyMA?si=TjqxxWFNOyR950z4>

# Meditation on Lament

# For what we have done – Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God,  
    according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
    blot out my transgressions.

**2**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
    and cleanse me from my sin!

**3**For I know my transgressions,  
    and my sin is ever before me.

**4**Against you, you only, have I sinned  
    and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words  
    and blameless in your judgment.

**5**Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
    and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**6**Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,  
    and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

**7**Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
    wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**10**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
    and renew a rightspirit within me.

# Time of Silence

# For what we have failed to do – Psalm 53

The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”  
    They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity;  
    there is none who does good.

**2**God looks down from heaven  
    on the children of man  
to see if there are any who understand,  
    who seek after God.

**3**They have all fallen away;  
    together they have become corrupt;  
there is none who does good,  
    not even one.

**4**Have those who work evil no knowledge,  
    who eat up my people as they eat bread,  
    and do not call upon God?

**5**There they are, in great terror,  
    where there is no terror!  
For God scatters the bones of him who encamps against you;  
    you put them to shame, for God has rejected them.

**6**Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!  
    When God restores the fortunes of his people,  
    let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.

# Time of Silence

Prayer – James Scannell

My God, My God, you have NOT forsaken us. And yet how long, Lord, shall our brothers and sisters with disabilities suffer indignities, shame, and rejection? We ache and groan with them.

We repent where we have shielded our eyes and not cared for them. We repent where we have not valued their presence in our midst. Change our hearts, Lord. Make them like yours. Amen.

# For what has been done to us – Psalm 56

Be gracious to me, O God, for man tramples on me;  
    all day long an attacker oppresses me;

**2**my enemies trample on me all day long,  
    for many attack me proudly.

**3**When I am afraid,  
    I put my trust in you.

**4**In God, whose word I praise,  
    in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.  
    What can flesh do to me?

**5**All day long they injure my cause;   
    all their thoughts are against me for evil.

**6**They stir up strife, they lurk;  
    they watch my steps,  
    as they have waited for my life.

**7**For their crime will they escape?  
    In wrath cast down the peoples, O God!

**8**You have kept count of my tossings;   
    put my tears in your bottle.  
    Are they not in your book?

**9**Then my enemies will turn back  
    in the day when I call.  
    This I know, thatGod is for me.

**10**In God, whose word I praise,  
    in the Lord, whose word I praise,

**11**in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.  
    What can man do to me?

**12**I must perform my vows to you, O God;  
    I will render thank offerings to you.

**13**For you have delivered my soul from death,  
    yes, my feet from falling,  
that I may walk before God  
    in the light of life.

# Time of Silence

# The Great Litany (BCP 2019, p. 91)

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,

**Have mercy upon us.**

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

**Have mercy upon us.**

O God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful,

**Have mercy upon us.**

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,

**Have mercy upon us.**

Remember not, Lord Jesus, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forebears; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare your people, whom you have redeemed with your most precious blood, and by your mercy preserve us forever.

**Spare us, good Lord.**

From all evil and wickedness; from sin, from the works and assaults of the devil; from your wrath and everlasting condemnation,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From all blindness of heart; from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all lack of charity,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From all disordered and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of your Word and commandments,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and food; from plague, pestilence, and famine,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle, and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your holy nativity and submission to the Law; by your baptism, fasting, and temptation,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By your agony and bloody sweat; by your Cross and passion; by your precious death and burial,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By your glorious resurrection and ascension; by the sending of the Holy Spirit; by your heavenly intercession; and by your coming again in power and great glory,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

In all times of tribulation; in all times of prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

We sinners beseech you to hear us, O Lord God: That it may please you to rule and govern your holy Church universal in the right way,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To illumine all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of your Word;

and that, both by their preaching and living, they may show it accordingly,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To send forth laborers into your harvest; to prosper their work by your Holy Spirit;

to make your saving health known unto all nations; and to hasten the coming of your kingdom,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To give all your people increase of grace to hear your Word with humility,

to receive it with pure affection, and to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To give us a heart to love and fear you, and diligently to keep your commandments,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To bless and keep all your people,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to rule the hearts of our national, regional, and local leaders, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, and show mercy, and walk humbly before you,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To bless and guide all judges, giving them grace to execute justice, and to maintain truth,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To bless and keep our armed forces by sea, and land, and air, and to shield them in all dangers and adversities,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To bless and protect all who serve their communities by their labor and learning,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To give and preserve for us and for others the bountiful fruits of the earth,

so that at the harvest we all may enjoy them,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To make wars to cease in all the world, and to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to show mercy on all prisoners and captives; refugees, the homeless, the disabled and the hungry; and all those who are desolate and oppressed,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To preserve all who are in danger by reason of their work or travel,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To strengthen the bonds of those in Holy Matrimony; to uphold the widowed and abandoned; and to comfort all whose homes are torn by strife,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To protect the unborn and their parents, and to preserve all women in childbirth;

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To care for those who have lost children or face infertility, and to provide for young children and orphans,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To visit the lonely and those who grieve; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit; and to comfort with your presence those who are failing and infirm,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To support, help, and deliver all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To have mercy upon all people,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sin, negligence, and ignorance; and to endue us with the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your holy Word,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To strengthen those who stand; to encourage the faint-hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

To grant to all the faithful departed eternal life and peace,

**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

Son of God, we beseech you to hear us.

**Son of God, we beseech you to hear us.**

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

**Have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

**Have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

**Grant us your peace.**

O Christ, hear us.

**O Christ, hear us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

O Lord, show us your love and mercy; (BCP 2019, p. 97)

**For we have put our trust in you.**

Almighty God, you have promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in the Name of your Son: Mercifully incline your ear to us who have made our prayers and supplications to you; and grant that what we have asked faithfully, according to your will, we may obtain effectually, for the relief of our necessities and the setting forth of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

# Confession (BCP 2019, p. 130)

**Most merciful God,**

**we confess that we have sinned against you**

**in thought, word, and deed,**

**by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;**

**we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves,**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**

**have mercy on us and forgive us;**

**that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,**

**to the glory of your Name. Amen**

*A Bishop or Priest stands and says*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*A Deacon or layperson remains kneeling and prays* (BCP 2019, p. 13)

Grant to your faithful people, merciful Lord, pardon and peace; that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

# Blessing

BLESSED ARE YOU who take time to listen to difficult speech, for you help our brothers and sisters in Christ who have difficulty speaking to know that if they persevere, they can be understood.

BLESSED ARE YOU who walk in public places with our brothers and sisters in Christ who have a disability, and ignore the stares of strangers, for in your friendship our brothers and sisters feel good to be themselves.

BLESSED ARE YOU who never bid our sisters and brothers in Christ who have a disability to "hurry up" and, more blessed, you who do not snatch their tasks from their hands to do it for them, for often our sisters and brothers in Christ need time rather than help.

BLESSED ARE YOU who stand beside our brothers and sisters in Christ who have a disability as they enter new and untried ventures, for their un-sureness will be outweighed by the times when they surprise themselves and you.

BLESSED ARE YOU who ask for the help of our sisters and brothers in Christ who have a disability and realize their giftedness for the building up the kingdom of God.

BLESSED ARE YOU who help our brothers and sisters in Christ who have a disability with the graciousness of Christ, for often they need the help they cannot ask for.

BLESSED ARE YOU when, by all things, you assure our sisters and brothers in Christ who have a disability that what makes them individuals is not their particular disability or difficulty but their beautiful God-given personhood which no condition can confine.

REJOICE AND BE EXCEEDINGLY GLAD for your understanding and love have opened doors for our brothers and sisters in Christ to enjoy life to its full and you have helped them believe in themselves as valued and gifted people.

# Closing Hymn – We Are One in the Spirit

<https://youtu.be/xGD_BFSf90c?si=nAkZmr6Q3vSwyR3S>

# Dismissal

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** 2 Cor. 13:14