

**LENT 2 – MIDWEEK**  
**MARCH 4, 2026**

**Theme of the Day: Lament!** Old Testament laments often make us feel uncomfortable. Why can't these people just pick themselves up and move on? Frequently we respond to their cries with two words—"Fly over!" But Job won't let us do that. And neither will Jesus. He wants us to learn to ***lament!***

**Invocation**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**Call to Worship** (*Based upon Job 19:23-27*)

Pastor: Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll.

**People: That they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever!**

Pastor: I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

**People: And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God.**

Pastor: I myself will see him with my own eyes, I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

**All: I know that my Redeemer lives!**

**Hymn #435 COME TO CALVARY'S HOLY MOUNTAIN** (stanzas 1-3)

Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;  
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all,  
In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.

Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within;  
From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin,  
Wash your robes and make them white;  
Ye shall walk with God in light.

Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind;  
Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find.  
Health this fountain will restore;  
They that drink shall thirst no more.

**Confession and Absolution**

Pastor: O God of our salvation,

**People: Give me light as I come to you out of the darkness of my sin.**

Pastor: Let your truth pierce my heart.

**People: Let your Holy Spirit sweep away my excuses, explanations, and rationalizations.**

Pastor: Bring me mercy and compassion so I see the glory of your kingdom,

**People: Given to me when you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ, to be my Savior.**

Pastor: We confess to Him that we have sinned and deserve nothing but death and eternal condemnation.

**People: For the sake of Jesus, forgive us all our sins!**

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, I declare in the name of Jesus Christ, that you are forgiven, washed clean and spotless in the blood of the Lamb. May the God of mercy who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you strong in your faith, fervent in hope and abounding in great joy!

**All: I know that my Redeemer lives!**

**Hymn #435 Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain** (stanza 4)

They that drink shall live forever; 'Tis a soul renewing flood.  
God is faithful; God will never Break His covenant of blood,  
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when He was glorified.

**Prayer of the Day**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. God of tender mercies and overflowing compassion, hear us as we lament and grieve over life's tragedies and point us to your healing love; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE LESSONS REFLECT THE THEME OF GOD'S GIFT OF LAMENT**

**Old Testament Reading JOB 3: 1-26**

After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth.  
<sup>2</sup> And Job said: <sup>3</sup> "Let the day perish on which I was born, and the night that said, 'A man is conceived.'" <sup>4</sup> Let that day be darkness! May God above not seek it, nor light shine upon it. <sup>5</sup> Let gloom and deep darkness claim it. Let clouds dwell upon it; let the blackness of the day terrify it. <sup>6</sup> That night—let thick darkness seize it! Let it not rejoice among the days of the year; let it not

come into the number of the months. <sup>7</sup> Behold, let that night be barren; let no joyful cry enter it. <sup>8</sup> Let those curse it who curse the day, who are ready to rouse up Leviathan. <sup>9</sup> Let the stars of its dawn be dark; let it hope for light, but have none, nor see the eyelids of the morning, <sup>10</sup> because it did not shut the doors of my mother's womb, nor hide trouble from my eyes. <sup>11</sup> "Why did I not die at birth, come out from the womb and expire? <sup>12</sup> Why did the knees receive me? Or why the breasts, that I should nurse? <sup>13</sup> For then I would have lain down and been quiet; I would have slept; then I would have been at rest, <sup>14</sup> with kings and counselors of the earth who rebuilt ruins for themselves, <sup>15</sup> or with princes who had gold, who filled their houses with silver. <sup>16</sup> Or why was I not as a hidden stillborn child, as infants who never see the light? <sup>17</sup> There the wicked cease from troubling, and there the weary are at rest. <sup>18</sup> There the prisoners are at ease together; they hear not the voice of the taskmaster. <sup>19</sup> The small and the great are there, and the slave is free from his master. <sup>20</sup> "Why is light given to him who is in misery, and life to the bitter in soul, <sup>21</sup> who long for death, but it comes not, and dig for it more than for hidden treasures, <sup>22</sup> who rejoice exceedingly and are glad when they find the grave? <sup>23</sup> Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden, whom God has hedged in? <sup>24</sup> For my sighing comes instead of my bread, and my groanings are poured out like water. <sup>25</sup> For the thing that I fear comes upon me, and what I dread befalls me. <sup>26</sup> I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest, but trouble comes."

### Epistle Reading 2 Corinthians 4:1-7

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup> But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. <sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

### Gospel Matthew 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. <sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. <sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. <sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. <sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. <sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

### Hymn #433

### Glory Be to Jesus

Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains  
Poured for me the life blood From His sacred veins!

Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;  
Blest be His compassion, Infinitely kind!

Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream  
Which from endless torment Did the world redeem!

Abel's blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies;  
But the blood of Jesus For our pardon cries.

Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high,  
Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.

Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood;  
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!

### Sermon: "Job: Blessed be the Name of the Lord"

*Learning to Lament*

(Job 3:1-26)

### Sermon Notes

#### Old Testament Laments

- ❖ "Why should I live?" (Genesis 25:22)
- ❖ "Why have you mistreated this people?" (Exo. 5:22).
- ❖ "Why has all of this happened to us?" (Judges 6:13).
- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_ of 150 psalms are psalms of lament.
- ❖ There is an entire book in the Old Testament called \_\_\_\_\_.
- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_.

## Job's Laments

- ❖ **"Why** did I not perish at birth?" (Job 3:11)
- ❖ **"Why** were there knees to receive me?" (Job 3:12)
- ❖ **"Why** was I not hidden in the ground like a stillborn child?" (Job 3:16)
- ❖ **"Why** is light given to those in misery?" (Job 3:20)
- ❖ **"Why** is life given to a man?" (Job 3:23)

"What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me. I have no peace, no quietness; I have no rest, but only turmoil." (Job 3:25–26)

### 1. We survive sorrow by going \_\_\_\_\_ it.

"Blessed are those who **mourn**, for they shall be comforted."  
(Matthew 5:4)

"Even though I walk **through** the valley of the shadow of death ..."  
(Psalm 23:4)

C \_\_\_\_\_  
A \_\_\_\_\_  
R \_\_\_\_\_  
E \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. We survive sorrow by looking \_\_\_\_\_ it.

Christ's lament from the cross includes Psalm 22:1–2; 6–8; 14–18.

"Weeping endures for a night, but joy comes in the **morning**."  
(Psalm 30:5)

### Offertory

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
And renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence,  
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,  
And uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

### Offerings

## Prayers of the Church

Pastor: We thank you, Father, for the gift of Jesus,

**People: Who bore our sins in his body on the cross.**

Pastor: May His cross be for us like the tree that sweetens our bitter suffering, as He suffered for us and with us,

**People: Like the rod that blossoms with life and beauty.**

Pastor: Like the bronze serpent that calls us to look to you when the pain of life overtakes us and we are surrounded with suffering.

**People: Teach us to bear our own cross,**

Pastor: And to believe that with it you send grace and mercy.  
*Additional Prayers may be offered by the pastor.*

Pastor: Forgive us, dear Father, for wanting to fly over pain and confusion.

**People: We stuff it. We deny it. And we would rather avoid it.**

Pastor: Empower us to claim your promise,

**People: "Weeping endures for a night, but joy comes in the morning."**

Pastor: And so we trust in our Savior's Easter morning resurrection victory by saying,

**All: I know that my Redeemer lives!**

Pastor: In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray.

**People: Amen.**

**Benediction** (Based upon Job 1:21)

Pastor: The LORD gives.

**People: And the LORD takes away.**

Pastor: Blessed be the name of the LORD.

**People: Yes, blessed be the name of the LORD!**

Pastor: And so we go forth confidently in the name of our LORD.

**People: The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**All: Amen.**

## Closing Hymn #610 Lord Jesus, Think on Me

Lord Jesus, think on me And purge away my sin;  
From worldly passions set me free And make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me, By anxious thoughts oppressed;  
Let me Your loving servant be And taste Your promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me Amid the battle's strife;  
In all my pain and misery, O be my health and life!

Lord Jesus, think on me Nor let me go astray;  
Through darkness and perplexity Point out Your chosen way.

Lord Jesus, think on me That, when this life is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see And share Your joy at last.

**Silent Prayer:** Dear Savior, I will allow my weeping to endure for the  
long nights of life, trusting that joy will come in the morning! Amen.

Worship Leader  
Lectors  
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender  
Grant Gundersen, Debbie Nier  
Deaconess Carole King

***The Book of Job:  
Blessed be the name of the Lord!***

*March 11: "It Is Enough" Job 14:1-14*

*Worship 10:00am & 6:00pm*

*Lenten Meal at 4:45pm*

*March 11: Sloppy Joe's, potato salad, chips,  
veggies, pickles*