

# An Order of Worship for the Home

June 28, 2020

Guest Pastor – Rev. Aaron Putnam

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*This service is written for two speakers. Ideally, family members can speak and declare God's grace to one another following this format. For those who live alone, this worship outline can be followed with a brother or sister in Christ over the phone. You may call on a friend to fill this role, or your elder or pastor can worship with you by phone.*

*There is an "offering prayer" included in this outline. As we shelter in place, please continue to worship through giving. You can mail offering envelopes and checks to Calvary or visit [www.calvaryslz.org](http://www.calvaryslz.org) to give online.*

## Invocation

Reader 1: We gather to worship. We gather to pray.  
Reader 2: We gather to our God and to his word.  
Reader 1: We gather in the name of our God who is...  
Reader 2: Father, Son and Holy Spirit...  
Together: Amen.

## Psalm 47:1-5

<sup>1</sup> Clap your hands, all peoples!  
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!  
<sup>2</sup> For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared,  
a great king over all the earth.  
<sup>3</sup> He subdued peoples under us,  
and nations under our feet.  
<sup>4</sup> He chose our heritage for us,  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves. *Selah*  
<sup>5</sup> God has gone up with a shout,  
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

## Confession & Absolution

*Make sure each person present has opportunity to confess to a brother or sister in faith. Go through both parts as many times as needed to accommodate all who are gathered. (From the order of Compline, Lutheran Service Book p.254)*

Christian Confessing: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Christian Responding: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

Together: Amen

## Matthew 10:40-42

Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. <sup>41</sup> The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward.<sup>42</sup> And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.

## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Psalm 13

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

<sup>2</sup>How long must I take counsel in my soul  
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

<sup>3</sup>Consider and answer me, O Lord my God;  
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

<sup>4</sup>lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"  
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

<sup>5</sup>But I have trusted in your steadfast love;  
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

<sup>6</sup>I will sing to the Lord,  
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

## Message

### **From Protest to Praise**

For many of us the past few months have been especially difficult. There are things going on in our lives that seem so unfair. For some, it has been the social isolation of being stuck at home and feeling trapped. For others, it has been the additional burdens placed upon us in our work life and home life. Still for others, it has been the loss they have experienced. We know people who have lost opportunities to celebrate in person (birthdays, graduations, and weddings come to mind). We know people who have lost the ability to provide financially for themselves and their families. We know people who have lost loved ones at this time and have not been able to be with them to comfort them and say goodbye.

The Book of Psalms has been the prayer book of the church for 3000 years. Usually we think of the psalms as prayers of praise and thanks. And that's indeed very true, but 1/3 of the 150 Psalms also include some form of lament. And what is a lament? A lament is a way we express our sadness and frustration over things that seem unfair in our lives and others. Our laments can be expressed in different ways. For example, in our lament, we may cry or feel depressed. We may shout or get angry. We may clam up and shove all our emotions down. And at times, in our lament, we may even protest.

There's been a lot of protesting going on lately over things that really seem unfair. We've seen protests against the shelter-in-place, protests against the economy being shut down, and protests against unsafe work conditions. We've seen protests against wearing masks and not wearing masks. We've seen protests against racial discrimination and injustice. We've even seen protests against other protests!!!

Protest is really a form of lament. We feel saddened/frustrated because of things that are unfair. We feel ignored and that no one is acting on our behalf and our level of frustration boils over.

Today, we're taking a look at Psalm 13 which is a psalm of lament. Psalm 13 was written by King David when he felt unfairly oppressed and attacked.

You can see David's frustration show up right away in the psalm. His lament takes the form of a serious protest! And here's the crazy thing. David isn't protesting against the government or the media or some other group. he's protesting against the Lord!

*How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?*

*How long will you hide your face from me?*

*<sup>2</sup> How long must I take counsel in my soul*

*and have sorrow in my heart all the day?*

*How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? (Psalm 13:1-2)*

Four times, David gets in God's face and confronts him boldly, "How long? How long? How long? How long?"

David is protesting, "This is unfair, God!" He's tired of waiting for God to show up & act on his behalf. "God, you say you are good...So, where are you? How long are you going to keep hiding your face? Show your face! Show that you care! Do something!"

So, what are you protesting right now?

We met our friend Pamela years ago when her husband took off and abandoned her and her young daughter Brianna. Brianna, who is autistic, is now 19 and it is getting more difficult for Pamela to care for her. It can seem overwhelming for this single

mom to try and do everything in her power to love and care for and communicate with her daughter who at times seems trapped in a shell angrily trying to break out.

There are times when Pamela's frustration boils over and she protests against God. "God, you say you are good...but this is all so unfair! How long are you going to keep hiding your face? Show your face! Show that you care! Do something!"

As Christians, the idea of protesting GOD can make us feel really uncomfortable. It's one thing to protest someone else, "this is so unfair!" But protesting like that against God? That makes us feel like we're being disrespectful. Yet, our God is a God who listens in love. And He even listens in love to our protests against Him! Yet at the same time, he doesn't want us to get forever caught up and stuck in our protests.

Look at the psalm again. It is basically broken up into 3 parts. In verses 1-2, David protests against God. But he doesn't get stuck there. In verses 3-4, He prays to God, asking for His help. And then, in verses 5-6, David's protest and prayer is turned into praise of God. The psalm moves David from protest to praise. But with a lot of us, we never get past the protest mode. We get caught up and stuck with the "whys?" and the "whats?" and the "hows?" and we never get to the good stuff.

What David teaches us in Psalm 13 is that if your protests against God never lead to praying to God, which in turn, never result in the praise of God, then you'll be protesting for a long time! And you will never know any peace in your life. So, how does this happen? Well, check out the first part of verse 5.

*But I have trusted in your steadfast love... (Psalm 13:5a)*

For David, TRUST is the ultimate issue!

Trust in God's steadfast love is the most important idea in the Old Testament. God's steadfast love was connected to His covenant promises. To speak of God's steadfast love was to speak of His perfect record of faithfulness; his history of showing up at just the right time and giving his people what they needed. To trust in God's steadfast love was to trust in God's legendary love that always, always comes through. To trust in God's steadfast love was to trust that God always, always keeps his promises....always! Trust in God's steadfast love is especially important when life seems unfair and God seems nowhere to be found.

Martin Luther often spoke of our God as a God who hides himself. Because of the seemingly unfair oppression and attacks he felt, Luther had a real fear that God had turned his back on him. Luther struggled with spiritual attacks that caused severe depression. He witnessed the plague decimate his city two different times. He had poor physical health and suffered from gall bladder attacks. He mourned the premature death of three of his children. He experienced persecution from the Pope and others who sought to quiet him and kill him. His 1530 sermon on suffering addressed fears that God had hidden himself and forgotten him and his followers.

Luther likened God's hiding his face from us to that of a father playing peek-a-boo with his child. The reason it works with a little child is because her senses are limited, her senses are uninformed. Dad can trick her into thinking, "if I can't see dad's face, dad must be gone, and then dad magically reappears." She hasn't learned that even though dad's face is hidden, his presence is still here. She hasn't learned that even though his face disappears, it always returns. Likewise, just because God seems to be hiding His face from us it doesn't mean He's not still with us.

Luther trusted in God's steadfast love, not by trying to find God where He was hiding, but by looking to God where he unequivocally shows his face and acts on our behalf. The Apostle Paul's words are helpful here.

*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. (1 Corinthians 4:6)*

What does this mean? It means that if we want to see God, we need to look to Jesus. From the earliest days of Christianity until now, believers have affirmed that God "shows His face" in Jesus. To know Jesus is to know God.

Jesus lived the perfect life we never could and He died the painful death we deserve. The forgiveness He gives us is God's ultimate form of steadfast love!

So, when you feel like God is hiding his face, when you feel like you're being treated unfairly, and when you feel like he has forgotten and ignored you, that's what you hold on to. That's what you remember. You hang on to that steadfast love. You hang on to Jesus! He's the ultimate sign that God has not forgotten you. And the ultimate proof of that is the CROSS!!

In the cross, God “shows up and does something!” What does He do? He turns His back on his own Son! And we can hear Jesus protesting in agony, “My God, my God, why are you forsaking me?”

In the cross, God hides His face from His perfect Son so that He might turn His face toward us, His imperfect people, and give us life! Now THIS is unfair! We don’t deserve it! And yet, His steadfast love endures forever for you and for me!

Lately, the difficulty experienced by our friend Pamela has caused her deep lament. That lament has sometimes turned to protest against God. But in the face of Jesus Christ crucified, Pamela sees God’s steadfast love for her and for Brianna. And she clings to His promises that He is indeed near today to comfort her and strengthen her. And to remind her that on the last day, He will “show His face” once and for all to make all things new, even Brianna, and to wipe away every lament from her heart.

For a lot of different reasons, there’s been a lot of lamenting going on the past few months. A lot of us feel like we’ve been unfairly oppressed and attacked. And a lot of us are expressing our lament in protests against God. “Where are you, God? This is so unfair! How long are you going to keep hiding your face? Show your face! Show that you care! Do something!”

Yet, if our protests against God never lead to praying to God, which in turn, never result in our praising of God, then we’ll be protesting for a long time. And we’ll never know any peace in our life.

In the midst of any sadness or frustration you may be experiencing right now, may you hold tight to God’s loyal and steadfast love in Jesus! As you do, may your heart rejoice in God’s salvation with singing to the Lord. Because in Jesus, He truly does deal bountifully with you.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Offering Prayer

*If you have an offering present as you worship, you may place your hands over it during the offering prayer.*

Reader 1: With thankful hearts we receive from you, O Lord.  
Reader 2: With thankful hearts we respond.  
Reader 1: Receive our thanks and praise.  
Reader 2: Receive our offerings.  
Together: Receive us as your own.

## Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

*Share prayer requests with one another. Pray over the requests shared, then pray the Lord's Prayer together.*

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.

## Blessing (Numbers 6:24-26)

Reader 1: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
Reader 2: The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
Reader 1: The Lord look upon you with favor...  
Reader 2: And give you peace.  
Together: Amen.

*As applicable, please share this resource with others who would benefit. An electronic version is available at [www.calvaryslz.org](http://www.calvaryslz.org). We can also add friends to our mailing list if that is preferred.*

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