

## Worship for March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 91

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
will say to the Lord,

**“My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.”**

For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence;

he will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

**You will not fear the terror of the night,  
or the arrow that flies by day,  
or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,  
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.**

A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.

You will only look with your eyes  
and see the punishment of the wicked.

**Because you have made the Lord your refuge,  
the Most High your dwelling place,  
no evil shall befall you,  
no scourge come near your tent.**

For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.

On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

You will tread on the lion and the adder,  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample  
under foot.

**Those who love me, I will deliver;  
I will protect those who know my name.  
When they call to me, I will answer them;**

**I will be with them in trouble,  
I will rescue them and honor them.  
With long life I will satisfy them,  
and show them my salvation.**

**HYMN** Just as I am #339

1 Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bid'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

2 Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

4 Just as I am, thy love unknown,  
hast broken ev'ry barrier down;  
now, to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

## CALL TO CONFESSION

God is faithful, leading us into freedom,  
but we are conditioned to the slavery of sin.

Comfortable with the way things are,  
we lose sight of the way God intends them to be.

We bring our confession before the One  
who is more powerful than Pharaoh in Egypt,  
mightier than the devil in the wilderness.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God, our refuge and fortress,  
forgive us when we fail to trust in you.  
We fall to temptation;  
we are swayed by false words;  
we speak false words of our own.  
We choose our ease and comfort  
over your demanding claims upon us and upon the world.  
In turning from you,  
we settle for less than the abundant generosity you intend.  
Forgive us, we pray.  
Do not let us be put to shame, O God.  
Hear us as we call to you and show us your salvation.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The Lord is generous to all who call on God's name.  
Friends, believe the good news:  
God does not turn away from us,  
but desires to bring us into the glorious freedom  
offered in Jesus Christ.  
Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.  
Thanks be to God!

### **PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

God Most High,  
thank you for signs of your power and grace,  
shown to us even in the wilderness.  
Give us courage to stand firm in your Word  
in every time of trial and testing,  
that we may enter the land of your freedom  
and receive the salvation you so generously give;  
Almighty, all-merciful God, lover of justice and giver of peace,  
Hear our prayer:  
For the church of Jesus Christ, and for all who seek your face.  
For leaders and elders, that they will abide by your commandments and be led by your spirit.  
For the earth that you have made, trembling for redemption and re-creation.  
For those who are tormented by illness, addiction, and grief.  
Let our lives and our world be transformed by your love; in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

**HYMN** Jesus Walked this

Lonesome Valley #211

1 Jesus walked this lonesome valley,  
he had to walk it by himself;  
O, nobody else could walk it for him,  
he had to walk it by himself.

2 We must walk this lonesome valley,  
we have to walk it by ourselves;  
O, nobody else can walk it for us,  
we have to walk it by ourselves.

3 You must go and stand your trial,  
you have to stand it by yourself,  
O, nobody else can stand it for you,  
you have to stand it by yourself.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 4: 1– 13

1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, 2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.

3 The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” 4 Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

5 Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. 7 If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.”

8 Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

9 Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,

10 for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’

11 and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

12 Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” 13 When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

**MEDITATION**

## **HYMN Precious Lord, Take My Hand #628**

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,  
when my life is almost gone,  
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appear and the night draws near,  
And the day is past and gone,  
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

## **COMMUNION**

**DISMISSAL** These Lenten days will take us to the cross of Christ. Go forward, knowing that you do not go this way alone. May the Word of God strengthen you and the Holy Spirit sustain you, and may the God of the exodus show you the way of true justice and peace.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Bartlett, David L.; Taylor, Barbara Brown; Long, Kimberly Bracken. Feasting on the Word Lenten Companion: A Thematic Resource for Preaching and Worship (p. 201). Westminster John Knox Press. Kindle Edition.