

Lament Readings

October 25, 2020

Reading #1

- Female: Lord, they canceled prom.
- Male: Lord, they canceled graduation.
- Female: You only get *one* senior prom.
- Male: You only get *one* High School graduation.
- Female: I am just . . . (long pause) . . . devastated.
- Male: I feel . . . (long pause) . . . depressed.
- Female: My boyfriend and I have been dating for *two years*.
- Male: I have been working hard in school for *12 years*.
- Female: This was going to be our big night.
- Male: This was going to be our big day.
- Female: In a few months, we will be going away to different colleges. I don't know what will happen to our relationship after that.
- Male: In a few months, we will all be going away to different colleges. I don't know if we will see each other after that.
- Female: I just wanted this one, special night.
- Male: I just wanted this one, special day.
- Female: It's not fair!
- Male: It's not right!
- Female: You only get one senior prom.
- Male: You only get one High School graduation.
- Together: Lord, can't you just take the virus away?**

Silence (use your judgment)

Female: **Psalm 38**
*LORD, do not forsake me;
do not be far from me, my God.
²² Come quickly to help me,
my Lord and my Savior.*

Reading #2

Female: God, I long for the way things *were*. When can we go back to normal?

Male: God, I wish we could all accept the new normal and just move forward.

Together: God, I miss the sense of *unity*.

Female: God, I am angry at the way our government is handling things.

Male: God, I am angry at the way people are responding to our leaders.

Together: God, I miss the sense of *peace*.

Female: God, I miss my friends and neighbors. I miss smiles and hugs.

Male: God, I miss retreats, concerts and camps.

Together: God, I miss the sense of *community*.

Female: God, I am weary of all the discord and fighting.

Male: God, I am tired of judgements and attacks on the choices I make.

Together: God, I miss the sense of *joy*.

Silence (use your judgment)

Female: **Psalm 28**
*To you, LORD, I call;
you are my Rock,*

*do not turn a deaf ear to me.
 For if you remain silent,
 I will be like those who go down to the pit.
² Hear my cry for mercy
 as I call to you for help,
 as I lift up my hands
 toward your Most Holy Place.*

Reading #3

Together: Lord, I am so very tired!

Male: I am weary, Lord. Weary of . . .
 - virus and vulnerability,
 - distancing and disinfecting,
 - masks and malice.

Female: Lord, I am so tired of . . .
 - pandemic and protocols
 - sickness and sorrow
 - misery and mourning.

Male: Lord, I have had enough of . . .
 - seclusion and sacrifice,
 - crisis and conflict,
 - anger and aggression.

Female: Lord, no more . . .
 - pain or protest,
 - confusion or confinement,
 - symptoms or suffering.

Together: Lord, I have had enough!

Silence (use your judgment)

Male: **Psalm 13**
*How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever?
 How long will you hide your face from me?
² How long must I wrestle with my thoughts*

*and day after day have sorrow in my heart?
 How long will my enemy triumph over me?
³ Look on me and answer, LORD my God.
 Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,
⁴ and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"
 and my foes will rejoice when I fall.
⁵ But I trust in your unfailing love;
 my heart rejoices in your salvation.
⁶ I will sing the LORD's praise,
 for he has been good to me.*

Reading #4

Together: Lord, I am afraid of the future.

Female: How will I navigate the holidays with my aging family members?

Male: Will I be able to keep my job?

Female: Father, what is the next disappointment I have to share with my kids?

Male: Will I be able to handle all the new rules and expectations at work?

Female: Lord, I am scared of what is coming in the darkness of winter.

Male: Lord, I am scared by all the unrest in the world.

Female: Who, I wonder, will be the next person to get the virus, and what will that mean for them?

Male: Who, I wonder, will be the next president, and what will that mean for our country?

Female: God . . .

- Will I ever get to sit around the table with my friends again?
- Will we ever be able to hug again?
- Will I ever get to see my dad again?

Male: God, I had plans and they were taken away. Can I ever plan again?

Female: Father, with all their own troubles and cares, will anyone remember me?

Silence (use your judgment)

Male: **Psalm 69**

Save me, O God,

for the waters have come up to my neck.

²*I sink in the miry depths,*

where there is no foothold.

I have come into the deep waters;

the floods engulf me.

³*I am worn out calling for help;*

my throat is parched.

My eyes fail,

looking for my God.

¹⁶*Answer me, LORD, out of the goodness of your love;*

in your great mercy turn to me.

¹⁷*Do not hide your face from your servant;*

answer me quickly, for I am in trouble.

Reading #5

Together: Lord, there is so much anxiety!

Female: There is the pandemic . . .

- the sickness,
- the seclusion,
- the loss,
- the loneliness,
- the fear,
- and the fatigue.

Male: There is racial tension . . .

- the hurt,
- the hatred,
- the victims,
- the violence,
- the fear,
- and the frustration.

Female: There is the election . . .
- the aggression,
- the accusations,
- the pride,
- the polarization,
- the friction,
- and the fear.

Male: Lord, it feels like a violent storm is raging all around us.

Female: Lord, don't You care if we drown?

Male: But You are the one who calms the storm.

Female: You are the Lord of wind and water.

Male: You are the Creator and the King of all things.

Female: You are the Savior and the Sustainer of all things.

Male: You are great and You are good.

Female: You are mighty and You are merciful.

Male: You are our Father and our friend.

Female: You are our Master and our Messiah.

Male: You are neither surprised nor overwhelmed.

Female: You are present and powerful.

Male: Your throne is firmly established.

Female: And You sit upon it as the King of Kings.

Male: You always hear our prayer,

Female: And respond to the cries of Your children,

Male: Because You are our tender-hearted Father.

Female: Our Abba, Papa, Daddy.

Male: We love You, God.

Female: Help us to trust You.

Male: **Psalm 9**

*The LORD reigns forever;
he has established his throne for judgment.*

*⁸ He rules the world in righteousness
and judges the peoples with equity.*

*⁹ The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed,
a stronghold in times of trouble.*

*¹⁰ Those who know your name trust in you,
for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.*