

**MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE
MARCH 9, 2022**

**WISDOM and LAMENT
“Job Struck”**

PSALM OF THE DAY 56

- ¹Be gracious to me, O God, for people trample on me; all day long foes oppress me;
²my enemies trample on me all day long, for many fight against me. O Most High,
³when I am afraid, I put my trust in you.
⁴In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I am not afraid; what can flesh do to me?
⁵All day long they seek to injure my cause; all their thoughts are against me for evil.
⁶They stir up strife, they lurk, they watch my steps. As they hoped to have my life,
⁷so repay them for their crime; in wrath cast down the peoples, O God!
⁸You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your record?
⁹Then my enemies will retreat in the day when I call. This I know, that God is for me.
¹⁰In God, whose word I praise, in the LORD, whose word I praise,
¹¹in God I trust; I am not afraid. What can a mere mortal do to me?
¹²My vows to you I must perform, O God; I will render thank offerings to you.
¹³For you have delivered my soul from death, and my feet from falling, so that I may walk before God in the light of life.

A READING FROM JOB

JOB 1:13-22

¹³One day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in the eldest brother's house, ¹⁴a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were feeding beside them, ¹⁵and the Sabeans fell on them and carried them off, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; I alone have escaped to tell you." ¹⁶While he was still speaking, another came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; I alone have escaped to tell you." ¹⁷While he was still speaking, another came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three columns, made a raid on the camels and carried them off, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; I alone have escaped to tell you." ¹⁸While he was still speaking, another came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house, ¹⁹and suddenly a great wind came across the desert, struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; I alone have escaped to tell you." ²⁰Then Job arose, tore his robe, shaved his head, and fell on the ground and worshiped. ²¹He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." ²²In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrongdoing.

**MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE
MARCH 16, 2022**

**WISDOM and LAMENT
“Job Cries Out”**

PSALM OF THE DAY 28

- ¹To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, do not refuse to hear me, for if you are silent to me, I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.
- ²Hear the voice of my supplication, as I cry to you for help, as I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary.
- ³Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who are workers of evil, who speak peace with their neighbors, while mischief is in their hearts.
- ⁴Repay them according to their work, and according to the evil of their deeds; repay them according to the work of their hands; render them their due reward.
- ⁵Because they do not regard the works of the LORD, or the work of his hands, he will break them down and build them up no more.
- ⁶Blessed be the LORD, for he has heard the sound of my pleadings.
- ⁷The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.
- ⁸The LORD is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed.
- ⁹O save your people, and bless your heritage; be their shepherd, and carry them forever.

A READING FROM JOB

JOB 3:1-10

¹After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. ²Job said: ³“Let the day perish in which I was born, and the night that said, ‘A man-child is conceived.’ ⁴Let that day be darkness! May God above not seek it, or light shine on it. ⁵Let gloom and deep darkness claim it. Let clouds settle upon it; let the blackness of the day terrify it. ⁶That 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. ⁷Yes, let that night be barren; let no joyful cry be heard in it. ⁸Let those curse it who curse the Sea, those who are skilled to rouse up Leviathan. ⁹Let the stars of its dawn be dark; let it hope for light, but have none; may it not see the eyelids of the morning — ¹⁰because it did not shut the doors of my mother's womb, and hide trouble from my eyes.

**MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE
MARCH 23, 2022**

**WISDOM and LAMENT
“The Mortal Job”**

PSALM OF THE DAY 6

- ¹O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger, or discipline me in your wrath.
- ²Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing; O LORD, heal me, for my bones are shaking with terror.
- ³My soul also is struck with terror, while you, O LORD — how long?
- ⁴Turn, O LORD, save my life; deliver me for the sake of your steadfast love.
- ⁵For in death there is no remembrance of you; in Sheol who can give you praise?
- ⁶I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping.
- ⁷My eyes waste away because of grief; they grow weak because of all my foes.
- ⁸Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping.
- ⁹The LORD has heard my supplication; the LORD accepts my prayer.
- ¹⁰All my enemies shall be ashamed and struck with terror; they shall turn back, and in a moment be put to shame.

A READING FROM JOB

JOB 14:1-15

¹"Amortal, born of woman, few of days and full of trouble, ²comes up like a flower and withers, flees like a shadow and does not last. ³Do you fix your eyes on such a one? Do you bring me into judgment with you? ⁴Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one can. ⁵Since their days are determined, and the number of their months is known to you, and you have appointed the bounds that they cannot pass, ⁶look away from them, and desist, that they may enjoy, like laborers, their days. ⁷"For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease. ⁸Though its root grows old in the earth, and its stump dies in the ground, ⁹yet at the scent of water it will bud and put forth branches like a young plant. ¹⁰But mortals die, and are laid low; humans expire, and where are they? ¹¹As waters fail from a lake, and a river wastes away and dries up, ¹²so mortals lie down and do not rise again; until the heavens are no more, they will not awake or be roused out of their sleep. ¹³O that you would hide me in Sheol, that you would conceal me until your wrath is past, that you would appoint me a set time, and remember me! ¹⁴If mortals die, will they live again? All the days of my service I would wait until my release should come. ¹⁵You would call, and I would answer you; you would long for the work of your hands.

**MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE
MARCH 30, 2022**

**WISDOM and LAMENT
“Job Looks for God”**

PSALM OF THE DAY 142

¹With my voice I cry to the LORD; with my voice I make supplication to the LORD.
²I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him.
³When my spirit is faint, you know my way. In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.
⁴Look on my right hand and see — there is no one who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me; no one cares for me.
⁵I cry to you, O LORD; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."
⁶Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low. Save me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me.
⁷Bring me out of prison, so that I may give thanks to your name. The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me.

A READING FROM JOB

JOB 23:1-17

¹Then Job answered: ²"Today also my complaint is bitter; his hand is heavy despite my groaning. ³Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his dwelling! ⁴I would lay my case before him, and fill my mouth with arguments. ⁵I would learn what he would answer me, and understand what he would say to me. ⁶Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power? No; but he would give heed to me. ⁷There an upright person could reason with him, and I should be acquitted forever by my judge. ⁸"If I go forward, he is not there; or backward, I cannot perceive him; ⁹on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him; I turn to the right, but I cannot see him. ¹⁰But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I shall come out like gold. ¹¹My foot has held fast to his steps; I have kept his way and have not turned aside. ¹²I have not departed from the commandment of his lips; I have treasured in my bosom the words of his mouth. ¹³But he stands alone and who can dissuade him? What he desires, that he does. ¹⁴For he will complete what he appoints for me; and many such things are in his mind. ¹⁵Therefore I am terrified at his presence; when I consider, I am in dread of him. ¹⁶God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me; ¹⁷If only I could vanish in darkness, and thick darkness would cover my face!

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE
APRIL 6, 2022

WISDOM and LAMENT
“God Finds Job”

PSALM OF THE DAY 3

¹O LORD, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me;

²any are saying to me, "There is no help for you in God."

Selah

³But you, O LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, and the one who lifts up my head.

⁴I cry aloud to the LORD, and he answers me from his holy hill.

Selah

⁵I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the LORD sustains me.

⁶I am not afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.

⁷Rise up, O LORD! Deliver me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked.

⁸Deliverance belongs to the LORD; may your blessing be on your people!

Selah

A READING FROM JOB

JOB 38:1-11

¹Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind: ²"Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? ³Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

⁴"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. ⁵Who determined its measurements — surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone

⁷when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? ⁸"Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb? — ⁹when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, ¹⁰and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, ¹¹and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped'?"

“Job Restored”

BONUS READING

JOB 42:1-16

¹Then Job answered the LORD: ²"I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. ³"Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. ⁴Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me.' ⁵I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; ⁶therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes." ⁷After the LORD had spoken these words to Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite: "My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends; for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. ⁸Now therefore take seven bulls and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you, for I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly; for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has done." ⁹So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did what the LORD had told them; and the LORD accepted Job's prayer. ¹⁰And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends; and the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. ¹¹Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they ate bread with him in his house; they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him; and each of them gave him a piece of money and a gold ring. ¹²The LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys. ¹³He also had seven sons and three daughters. ¹⁴He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. ¹⁵In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters; and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers. ¹⁶After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children, and his children's children, four generations.