

SYNOD OF THE SUN – October 26, 2007

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

I am the one who has seen affliction under the rod of God's wrath;
he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light;
against me alone he turns his hand, again and again, all day long.

**Though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer;
he has blocked my ways with hewn stones, he has made my paths crooked.**

I have become the laughingstock of all my people,
the object of their taunt-songs all day long.

**My soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is; so I say,
“Gone is my glory, and all that I had hoped for from the Lord.”**

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall!

My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me.

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.

It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

For the Lord will not reject forever.

**Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his
steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.**

Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the Lord.

Let us lift up our hearts as well as our hands to God in heaven.

You have taken up my cause, O Lord, you have redeemed my life.

(Lamentations 3:1-3, 8-9, 14, 17-26, 31-33, 40-41, 58)

HYMN #276 – “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Holy Lord God, with the confidence of loved children, we turn to you, certain that
we have sinned against you and against one another. We will not now name all of
our transgressions, but you know them. But you do not hold them in your hands to
hold them against us. You drop them all and reach out to us in forgiveness. May
we accept your pardon, your gifts of love this day, and your steadfast love and faith-
fulness, for we would live in peace. And we pray in the name of the one who taught
us peace, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON and SHARING OF CHRIST’S PEACE

“But you, O Lord, reign forever; your throne endures to all generations... Restore us to yourself, O Lord... Renew our days.” (*Lamentations 5:19, 21*) This affirmation is true today because we are forgiven, renewed, and restored.

Thanks be to God. Amen

SCRIPTURE – Jeremiah 17:5-8

PRAYERS and the LORD’S PRAYER

Holy Lord God, we trust in you and come to you offering up the work of this day.

We offer our work, O Lord, and seek your blessing on what we have done.....

We turn our hearts to you, loving God, offering a variety of feelings - satisfaction in some places and disappointment in others.

We turn to you, O Lord, for you will shelter us and make us strong.....

Lord Jesus Christ, you are living water. In our baptisms, you call us to your self. As you walk with us in every parched place, you guide us to still waters and restore our souls. You water us like an underground stream in ways that we do not even know. What we do know is that as we stay near to you, we bear your fruit.

Shower us with your very self, O Spirit. Pour out upon us your gifts, that we may serve you and love one another.....

We are actually afraid, Lord God, for we do not know exactly what the future brings. But even in our fear we know we cannot escape your presence with us. There is no place we can go where you are not. Nothing separates us from your love through Jesus Christ. And your Holy Spirit does not leave us orphaned. We pray not only for our selves, but for those who need special care this day and extra measures of your mercy. We pray for the whole church of Jesus Christ, and in particular the church in the Synod of the Sun, the congregations we represent, the Presbyterian Church US(USA), and every place where knees bow and Jesus Christ is proclaimed as Lord.

We proclaim you as Lord, Jesus, for you are our salvation and you calm every fear...

Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, hear our prayers, our words and sighs, our hopes and dreams, our fears and apprehensions. And with the confidence of beloved children, bind us together as we pray together using the prayer that Jesus taught us...

Our Father.....

HYMN #104 – “Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

DISMISAL