

Emanuel 9 Memorial Service + June 17, 2020 + 9:00 p.m.

Streaming on [Facebook.com/CLOKCDotChurch](https://www.facebook.com/CLOKCDotChurch) & on [Zoom](#) (Meeting ID 813 572 6937)

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in our homes and in our hearts and minds to remember the martyrdom of nine Saints, slain five years ago tonight; and to confess our sins and complicity in the sin of racism; and to worship in the name of the Father, and the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

A CONFSSIONAL LITANY AND LAMENT

They were doing what we are called to as they engaged in Bible study.

It was Wednesday night—a stranger walked in, and these people welcomed him and prayed together:

the Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance,

the Rev. DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Kibwe Diop Sanders, the Rev. Daniel Lee Simmons,

the Rev. Myra Singleton Quarles Thompson, and the pastor of the church, the Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney.

This stranger wanted to ignite a “race war,” after he shot and killed them, denying them the very humanity he claimed for himself, claiming rights and privileges associated with “whiteness.”

Now we are grieved, once again in pain, burning and anguished, lamenting the horror of evil unleashed.

And so we cry out,

Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

Sorrow and heartache have come to us. Death and mourning have visited us.

We feel far from you, O God, and distant from one another. And so we cry out,

Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

Evil besets us in our land. We cry out against the horrors and agonies of racism. We acknowledge our nation is socialized in ways that promote and normalize colonialization. And so we cry out,

Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

The privileged of our nation have benefited from practices that dehumanize indigenous peoples. These lands have been stolen and the nations, that were the original occupants of these lands, slain.

We have claimed as “discovery” lands that were not ours. And so we cry out,

Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

Tribalism has led to the denial of your presence, O God.

Present generations, the children whose ancestors were kidnapped and sold into slavery, those forced to labor not on their own behalf, still suffer and struggle to live in freedom while the children of colonizers,

live out of “white privilege,” denying the fullness of your presence in all people. And so we cry out,

Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

Assaults born of greed and murder continue propping up white privilege that is institutionalized in our nation, preventing us from recognizing the twin evils of racism and nationalism still perpetuated among us.

And so we cry out,

Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

Open our eyes, O God, open our hearts. Open our ears, O God, open our minds.

Help us to behold one another as you behold us. Help us to be firmly rooted in the practices of the gospel —so that, when we pray, the way we live will make real the dream of your beloved community

within and among us. And so we cry out,

Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

With the help of your mercy and grace, lead us to think, believe, and change.

May your gospel’s transforming power by the working of the Holy Spirit be present in us, in our churches, in our nation and all the nations of the earth. May it be so. And the people said, “Amen.”

Amen.

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HYMN

GIVE ME JESUS

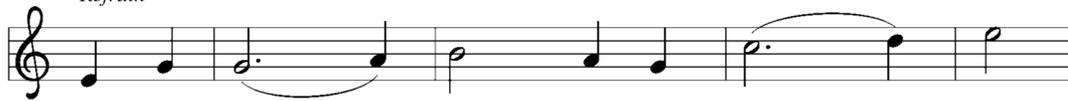


In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,



in the morn - ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.

Refrain



Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

CONFESSING RACISM: A LAMENT FOR THE CHURCH

As church, we confess the sin of racism and condemn racist rhetoric and the ideology of white supremacy.

As church, we confess, repent, and repudiate the times when this church has been silent in the face of racial injustice. God, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Racism is deeply ingrained within the ELCA, a predominantly white church. It is deeply embedded within the individual congregations whose members continue to foster stereotypes and support policies that actively hurt people of color. God, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

As church, we declare that the enslavement of black bodies and the removal of indigenous peoples established racism in the United States, a truth this nation and this church have yet to fully embrace. Racism is manifested through the history of Jim Crow policies, racial segregation, the terror of lynching, extrajudicial killings by law enforcement, and the disproportionate incarceration of people of color. God, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

As church we lament the institutional racism of discriminatory treatment within the call process; inequitable compensation of clergy of color; racial segregation; divestment from black communities and congregations; systemic policies and organizational practices; and a failure to fully include the gifts of leadership and worship styles of black people, indigenous people, and people of color. God, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Confessions are empty promises without meaningful actions—actions that are grounded in prayer, education, and soul-searching repentance. The sin of racism separates us from one another. Though we trust that we are reconciled to God through Christ's death and resurrection, we seek such life-giving reconciliation with one another. As we repent, let us not turn back to ideologies that promote white supremacy. We trust that God can make all things new.

Amen.

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LORD'S PRAYER

Together, we pray as Jesus taught us.

*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.

HYMN

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.
felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;



fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,

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LAMENTING RACISM

The sin of racism hurts communities of color, fractures human relationships, and denies God's good creation.

Lament is a way for us to recognize the harm caused by racism.

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus

God's grace in Christ frees us for the difficult work of recognizing and lamenting racism.

We are all part of one body in Christ, called to act with equity, fairness, and justice. God's saving love creates grace-filled spaces within us and within our relationships. God's saving love calls and leads us toward rooting out the racism that continues to infect the body.

Within the whole human family, people of color have experienced both interpersonal aggression and structural oppression instead of abundant life.

We recognize and lament the harm racism has caused to

African Descent communities;

American Indian and Alaska Native communities; Indigenous Peoples within Canada;

Arab and Middle Eastern communities;

Asian and Pacific Islander communities;

and Latinx communities.

We cry out to you,

hear our lament, O God.

We have assigned the notion of race to human beings created in God's own divine image. We have judged God's beautiful diversity by our flawed and artificial standards. We cry out to you,

hear our lament, O God.

We have used language and images in ways that equate *black* and *dark* with dirt and sin, and that fail to welcome the treasures of darkness in God's good creation. We cry out to you,

hear our lament, O God.

We have accepted practices in our churches and in our society that privilege whiteness over diversity and equity. We have been complicit in how racism continues to exclude and harm people of color.

We cry out to you,

hear our lament, O God.

When one part of the body of Christ hurts, the whole body hurts.

As we listen to people who are harmed by racism, we call to you,

open our hearts, O God.

As we reflect on our daily interactions with people and communities of color, we call to you,

open our hearts, O God.

As we reconsider what we have been taught about race and racism, we call to you,

open our hearts, O God.

As we contemplate what we have done and what we have left undone, we call to you,

open our hearts, O God.

As we labor to create a loving and safe community for our siblings of color, we call to you,

open our hearts, O God.

Holy and merciful God, as your people we recommit ourselves to loving one another as you have loved us.

Prepare us for this time of listening and discovery.

We pray in the name of the one who has made us one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We leave in silence.

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