



## **Midweek Lenten Series, Week 5: Witness At The Cross – The Women**

### *Prelude*

*Welcome: As we gather, you may light a candle and place it on the rungs of the ladder as an indication of your presence as a witness at the cross.*

### **Opening Dialogue** *(from Psalm 57)*

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful,

**for in you my soul takes refuge.**

In the shadow of your wings I will take refuge,

**until the destroying storms pass by.**

I cry to God Most High,

**to God who is with me to the end.**

God will send from heaven and save me.

**God will send forth steadfast love and faithfulness.**

**Gathering Song:** Jesus, Refuge of the Weary LBW 93

### **Greeting**

God who created all,  
who bore the cross,  
and who dwells in us,  
be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **Prayer**

Holy God, strengthen us to stand, in our minds and hearts, before the cross of Jesus, that the women who witnessed his death and bore the first witness to his resurrection may teach us how to bear faithful witness to him today. Amen.

**Reading:** Psalm 31:1-16 LBW p. 229

*read responsively by whole verse*

## Gospel Acclamation

Jesus, may our hearts be burning  
with more fervent love for you;  
may our eyes be ever turning  
to behold your cross anew;  
till in glory, parted never  
from the blessed Savior's side,  
graven in our hearts forever,  
dwell the cross, the Crucified.

Tune: O DU LIEBE MEINER LIEBE (LBW 93, st. 3)

Gospel: Luke 8:1-3; Luke 23:27-31; Matthew 27:54-56

## Reflection

### Hymn of the Day For All the Faithful Women ELW 419

*sing verses 1, 6, 7 & 9*



1 For all the faith-ful wom-en who served in days of old,

*Insert one or more of stanzas 3-11 or this general stanza 2:*

2 O God, for saints and ser-vants, those named and those un-known,

*Last* All praise to God the Fa-ther! All praise to Christ the Son!



to you shall thanks be giv-en; to all, their stor-y told.

in whom through all the a-ges your light of glo-ry shone,  
All praise to God the Spir-it, who binds the church as one!



They served with strength and glad-ness in tasks your wis-dom gave.

we of-fer glad thanks-giv-ing and fer-vent prayer we raise  
With saints who went be-fore us, with saints who wit-ness still,



To you their lives bore wit-ness, pro-claimed your pow'r to save.

that, faith-ful in your ser-vice, our lives may sing your praise.  
we sing glad al-le-lu-ias and strive to do your will.

*Mary, Mother of Our Lord*

- 6 We honor faithful Mary,  
fair maiden, full of grace.  
She bore the Christ, our brother,  
who saved our human race.  
May we, with her, surrender  
ourselves to your command  
and lay upon your altar  
our gifts of heart and hand.

*Mary Magdalene*

- 9 We praise the other Mary,  
who came at Easter dawn  
and near the tomb did tarry,  
but found her Lord was gone.  
As joyfully she saw him  
in resurrection light,  
may we by faith behold him,  
the day who ends all night.

*Martha and Mary*

- 7 We sing of busy Martha,  
who toiled with pot and pan  
while Mary sat in silence  
to hear the word again.  
Christ, keep our hearts attentive  
to truth that you declare,  
and strengthen us for service  
when work becomes our prayer.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923  
Music: Finnish folk tune  
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**Prayer:**

O God, source of life: We praise you for the women who have borne witness to you in myriad ways, including Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, Mary the mother of Jesus, and Salome. May their examples inspire us, also, to testify to your truth, act in faithfulness, and reach out to others in love. Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

**Our Father . . .**

**Blessing** *Based on Galatians 2:19-20*

People of God, you have been crucified with Christ,  
and it is no longer you who live,  
but it is Christ who lives in you.  
Go forth with Christ into the night,  
that you may also rise with him.

**Amen.**

*Thank you,*

**Doug Sime, Orleen Pearson, and Maggie Hensel  
for leading the service this evening.**

# Sending Song: Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;  
 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.  
 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,  
 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;

I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:  
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.  
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.  
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.

you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.  
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.  
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.  
 And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,

Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.  
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.  
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.  
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931  
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## Postlude

**With material from "Witness of the Cross" by A.J. Levine, Leader Guide, and from [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).**

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