



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

Department for Theology  
and Public Witness

[lutheranworld.org](http://lutheranworld.org)

## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

### Tuesday Morning Prayer, Ecumenical Centre 4 December 2018

World Council of Churches – Lutheran World Federation

*This week in the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we are praying with the people and churches of Myanmar and Thailand.*

#### **Welcome:**

#### **Call to Worship**

Jesus came proclaiming the realm of God,  
saying, “The realm of God has come near:  
Turn! Change your hearts. Live the good news!”  
How do we live the realm of God?

Mark 1:14, 15

#### **How do we live the gospel?**

The realm of God is like a woman who is hiding.

#### **Hiding?**

She’s hiding a lump of leaven.  
Soon the flour is rising, and rising,  
She makes bread – enough to feed everyone in need.

The realm of God is like a woman  
Who has lost something precious.

#### **Precious?**

She has lost a coin,  
A coin that speaks of her dignity and value.  
But turns the house upside down

Until the coin is found.

The realm of God is something small:  
A seed, salt, a single light

### Seed? Salt? Light?

God's realm is a single light, a candle, flickering on a hill-top.  
You can't hide it.

How do we live the realm of God?  
**How do we live the gospel?**

The realm of God is like someone who sees where there is silence  
She knows that inside this silence  
hides a great wrong.  
And she speaks. And speaks  
And doesn't give up until the injustice is named, and something changes.

### Prayer:

**We give you thanks, Eternal One,  
for those who shone their light at the risk of their life  
who spoke a word, who took a small action  
that echoed everywhere, that changed people's hearts;  
who spoke for justice,  
when no one else dared.**

### Song: Sometimes a healing word

Patrick Michaels, USA

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT



Some times a heal -ing word is com - fort: eas - ing the grieved or anx - ious heart,  
Some times a heal -ing word is an - gry: giv - ing a name to dis - con tent,  
Some times a heal -ing word takes chan - ces: go - ing where no - one yet has been,  
Some times a heal -ing word will list - ten: hear - ing the voice - less in - to speech,



giv - ing as - sur - ance of our car - ing, treas - ur - ing each and eve - ry part.  
shin - ing a light on sin or griev - ance, call - ing a peo - ple to re pent.  
fac - ing the dan - gers of the des - ert, hop - ing for shel - ter at the inn.  
let - ting the pat - tern of the sto - ry move us to learn what it can teach.



Come, break the si - lence! Let us tell the Word that makes us free and well.

## Dramatic Reading (2 Samuel 13:1-22)

### Reader 1

Yes. David's son, Absalom had a beautiful sister, whose name was Tamar. Their half-brother, Amnon fell in love with her. Amnon was so tormented that he made himself ill because of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin and it seemed impossible for Amnon to do anything to her. His adviser, Jonadab son of Shimeah, counseled him to do evil things to Tamar, and Amnon, unfortunately, followed his advice.

<sup>6</sup>...So Amnon lay down, and pretended to be ill; and when the king came to see him, Amnon said to David the king, "Please let my sister Tamar come and make a couple of cakes in my sight, so that I may eat from her hand."

<sup>7</sup> Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, "Go to your brother Amnon's house, and prepare food for him." <sup>8</sup> So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house, where he was lying down. She took dough, kneaded it, made cakes in his sight, and baked the cakes. <sup>9</sup> Then she took the pan and set them <sup>[a]</sup> out before him, but he refused to eat. Amnon said, "Send out everyone from me." So everyone went out from him. <sup>10</sup> Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food into the chamber, so that I may eat from your hand." So Tamar took the cakes she had made, and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother. <sup>11</sup> But when she brought them near him to eat, he took hold of her, and said to her, "Come, lie with me, my sister."

<sup>12</sup> She answered him, "**No, my brother, do not force me; for such a thing is not done in Israel; do not do anything so vile!**" ... <sup>14</sup> But he would not listen to her; and being stronger than she, he forced her and lay with her.

<sup>15</sup> Then Amnon was seized with a very great loathing for her; indeed, his loathing was even greater than the lust he had felt for her. Amnon said to her, "Get out!" <sup>16</sup> But she said to him, "No, my brother; <sup>[b]</sup> for this wrong in sending me away is greater than the other that you did to me." But he would not listen to her. <sup>17</sup> He called the young man who served him and said, "Put this woman out of my presence, and bolt the door after her." <sup>18</sup> (Now she was wearing a long robe with sleeves; for this is how the virgin daughters of the king were clothed in earlier times. <sup>[c]</sup>) So his servant put her out, and bolted the door after her.

### Reader 2

But Tamar put ashes on her head, and tore the long robe that she was wearing; she put her hand on her head, and went away, crying aloud as she went.

<sup>20</sup> Her brother Absalom said to her, "Has Amnon your brother been with you? Be quiet for now, my sister; he is your brother; do not take this to heart." So Tamar remained, a desolate woman, in her brother Absalom's house.

<sup>21</sup> When King David heard of all these things, he became very angry, but he would not punish his son Amnon, because he loved him, for he was his firstborn. <sup>[d]</sup>

<sup>22</sup> But Absalom spoke to Amnon neither good nor bad; for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had raped his sister Tamar.

### **Intercessory Prayers:** Let us intercede

1) God of the weak and vulnerable, lift the voices of the weak beyond fear and despair. Transform the cries of the vulnerable into a torrent of transformation. God in your mercy.

### Hear our prayer.

2) God of freedom, touch the powerful. Teach them to hear the words buried under the silences. Free their frozen tongues to learn the language of hope and empower them to walk the talk of justice. God in your mercy.

### Hear our prayer.

3) God of memories, through the great cloud of witnesses around us you remind us that we are not alone in our struggles. Help us to build your kin-dom of equality on the shared foundations of our common work and vision. God in your mercy.

### Hear our prayer.

## Commitment Song: For everyone born

Shirley Erena Murray

Brian Mann, USA



1. For ev - ery-one born a place at the ta- ble, for ev - ery-one born, clean wa- ter and  
2. For wom - an and man, a place at the ta- ble, re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the  
3. For young and for old, a place at the ta- ble, a voice to be heard, a part in the  
4. For ev eryone born, a place at the ta- ble, to live with - out fear, and simp - ly to



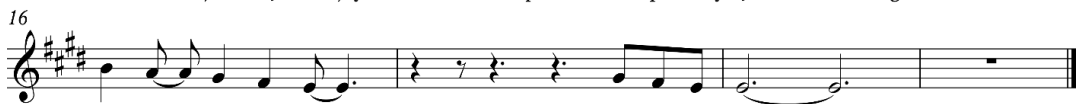
5  
bread; a shel - ter, a space a safe place for grow - ing  
share; with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,  
song, the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled  
be, to work, to speak out to wit - ness and wor - ship.



8  
for ev - ery-one born a star o - ver - head. And God will de - light when we are cre  
for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair.  
for young and for old, a right to be - long.  
for ev - ery-one born, the right to be free.



12  
a tors of jus tice, and joy com - pas - sion and peace: yes, God will de - light when we are cre



16  
a - tors of jus - tice, just - tice and joy.

**Blessing:** Go in peace,

**We will go, remember, and follow the steps of those  
who spoke a word, who took a small action  
that echoed everywhere,  
that changed people's hearts;  
who spoke for justice,  
when no one else dared. Amen**