



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

A Communion  
of Churches

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## 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

### Tuesday Morning Prayer, Ecumenical Centre

World Council of Churches – Lutheran World Federation

♪ **Word of justice** (*Litany of the Word* v. 1 -2)

**1. Word of justice, Alleluia,  
Come to dwell here, Maranatha!  
Maranatha!**

**2. Word of mercy, Alleluia,  
Live among us.**

**Scripture** 2 Samuel 11:2-5,14-17; 13:1-7,12-17

**R** *“No, No!” she cries. “Don’t be foolish! Don’t do this to me! Such wicked things aren’t done in this land. How will I hide my shame?”*

<sup>2</sup>Late one afternoon, after his midday rest, David got out of bed and was walking on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of unusual beauty taking a bath. <sup>3</sup>He sent someone to find out who she was, and he was told, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.” <sup>4</sup>Then David sent messengers to get her; and when she came to the palace, he slept with her.

**R** *“No, No!” she cries. “Don’t be foolish! Don’t do this to me! Such wicked things aren’t done in this land. How will I hide my shame?”*

She had just completed the purification rites after having her menstrual period. Then she returned home. <sup>5</sup>Later, when Bathsheba discovered that she was pregnant, she sent David a message, saying, “I’m pregnant.”

<sup>14</sup>So the next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and gave it to Uriah to deliver. <sup>15</sup>The letter instructed Joab, “Station Uriah on the front lines where the battle is fiercest. Then pull back so that he will be killed.”

**R** *“No, No!” she cries. “Don’t be foolish! Don’t do this to me! Such wicked things aren’t done in this land. How will I hide my shame?”*

<sup>16</sup> So Joab assigned Uriah to a spot close to the city wall where he knew the enemy's strongest men were fighting. <sup>17</sup> And when the enemy soldiers came out of the city to fight, Uriah the Hittite was killed along with several other Israelite soldiers.

**13** Now David's son Absalom had a beautiful sister named Tamar. And Amnon, her half brother, fell desperately in love with her. <sup>2</sup> Amnon became so obsessed with Tamar that he became ill. She was a virgin, and Amnon thought he could never have her.

<sup>3</sup> But Amnon had a very crafty friend—his cousin Jonadab. He was the son of David's brother Shimea.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>4</sup> One day Jonadab said to Amnon, "What's the trouble? Why should the son of a king look so dejected morning after morning?"

So Amnon told him, "I am in love with Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister."

**R** *"No, No!" he cried. "Don't be foolish! Such wicked things aren't done in this land. How will you hide your shame?"*

<sup>5</sup> "Well," Jonadab said, "I'll tell you what to do. Go back to bed and pretend you are ill. When your father comes to see you, ask him to let Tamar come and prepare some food for you. Tell him you'll feel better if she prepares it as you watch and feeds you with her own hands."

<sup>6</sup> So Amnon lay down and pretended to be sick. And when the king came to see him, Amnon asked him, "Please let my sister Tamar come and cook my favorite dish<sup>[b]</sup> as I watch. Then I can eat it from her own hands." <sup>7</sup> So David agreed and sent Tamar to Amnon's house to prepare some food for him.

<sup>12</sup> "No, my brother!" she cried. "Don't be foolish! Don't do this to me! Such wicked things aren't done in Israel. <sup>13</sup> Where could I go in my shame? And you would be called one of the greatest fools in Israel. Please, just speak to the king about it, and he will let you marry me."

**R** *"No, No!" she cries. "Don't be foolish! Don't do this to me! Such wicked things aren't done in this land. How will I hide my shame?"*

<sup>14</sup> But Amnon wouldn't listen to her, and since he was stronger than she was, he raped her. <sup>15</sup> Then suddenly Amnon's love turned to hate, and he hated her even more than he had loved her. "Get out of here!" he snarled at her.

<sup>16</sup> "No, no!" Tamar cried. "Sending me away now is worse than what you've already done to me."

But Amnon wouldn't listen to her. <sup>17</sup> He shouted for his servant and demanded, "Throw this woman out, and lock the door behind her!"

**R** *"No, No!" she cries. "Don't be foolish! Don't do this to me! Such wicked things aren't done in this land. How will I hide my shame?"*

### **Call to Prayer**

L: Today Bathsheba and Tamar cry for justice, as all over the world, women are raped and abused by close friends or family members. We stand in solidarity with these women and light candles in their honour.

♪ **Word of justice** (*Litany of the Word v. 3 - 4*)

**3. Word of power, Alleluia,  
Live within us. Maranatha!**

**4. Word of freedom, Alleluia,  
Save your people. Maranatha!**

L: God of Power, hear the cries of your children abused by family members, bound by shame for that which they did not commit against themselves.

Lord in Your mercy we lift up ...  
(Candle is lit and names are raised.)

♪ **Word of justice** (*Litany of the Word*)

**Word of comfort, Alleluia,  
Bring us hope now. Maranatha!**

**Word of wisdom, Alleluia,  
Heal our sorrow. Maranatha!**

**Word of healing, Alleluia,  
Come renew us. Maranatha!**

L: God of Comfort, Your daughters have been left exposed, with no one seeming to cover their nakedness and shame. Their hearts are broken O Lord, comfort them as they seek new ways of being.

Lord we bring before you ...  
(Candle is lit and names are raised.)

♪ **Word of justice** (*Litany of the Word*)

**Cry of prophets, Alleluia,  
Hope of ages, Maranatha!**

**Here among us, Alleluia,  
Living in us, Maranatha!**

**You we long for, Alleluia,  
You we thirst for, Maranatha!**

L: Living Word, sometimes we also fail to find words to express our pain, our sense of guilt, our shame at not fighting back, at being silent, at our complicity.

**C: As you remove the yokes, as you mend the veils,  
grant us wisdom and courage for the task of restoration and peacebuilding.**

L: Lord in Your mercy

**C: hear our prayers. Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer** (*in our various languages*)

Blessing