



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

A Communion  
of Churches

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## 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

### Thursday Morning Prayer, Ecumenical Centre

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.*

### “PRECIOUS IN GOD’S EYES”

From 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign is a time to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world.

By being part of the 16 Days Campaign, faith communities say NO to human trafficking, rape, domestic violence, child and forced marriage, honour crimes, female genital mutilation and other types of abuse and violence and say a YES to life with dignity, justice and the basic right to live a life safe and protected, embraced by God’s wings and mercy.

#### **Gathering** (*Psalms 36:7*)

L:     How precious is your steadfast love, O God!  
       All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

♪     **Stay with me**

The image shows a musical score for a song in 4/4 time, written in G minor. The score consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system covers the lyrics 'Stay with me, remain here with me; watch and'. The second system covers 'pray, watch and pray.' and ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line: Dm, Gm6, Dm, Gm6, Dm, C in the first system; F, C, Dm, Asus, A in the second system. The piano accompaniment features block chords and simple rhythmic patterns.

Words: Based on Matthew 26  
 Music (STAY WITH ME): Jacques Berthier © 1984 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community, France, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent

## A Litany of Lament

Hear us, Jesus Christ, when we cry to you for all the women and girls who are precious in God's eyes, who are precious in their own eyes and are precious to one another. God of love and mercy, help us to see in each other a precious gift of God; receive us under your wings as we seek refuge and protection.

**We cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the young girls given or sold in marriage, and for unwilling brides with no way out:  
**We cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the women raped as a weapon of war  
 and for the children they bear in grief and shame:  
**We cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the victims of rape who are killed or take their own lives,  
 and for the rape survivors who live with its scars:  
**We cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the girls denied access to education,  
 told they are stupid or worthless or expendable:  
**We cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the girls and women sold or tricked into the sex trade,  
 and for sex workers exposed to disease and violence,  
**We cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the women trapped in destructive relationships,  
manipulated, controlled, justifying their abusers:

**We cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the women who hide their bruises  
and lie about their injuries for fear of the next attack:

**We cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the women bullied in their workplaces,  
belittled, underpaid, threatened with losing their job:

**We cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the women attacked because of their sexual identity,  
targets for physical or spiritual assault:

**We cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the women and girls denied religious freedom, forced to submit by custom or law:

**We cry out to you: bring justice!**

We cry to you, Jesus Christ, for our sisters, our daughters, our mothers, ourselves.

**Bring justice. Bring healing. Bring hope. Amen.**

♪ O Lord, hear my prayer

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "O Lord hear my pray'r, O Lord hear my pray'r: when I call an - swer me. O Lord hear my pray'r, O Lord hear my pray'r: come and lis - ten to me." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Music: J. Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, F-71250 Taizé-Communauté, France.

**Reading Psalm 55.1-14** (*If possible, close your eyes and think of a woman who is part of your circle of relations, whom you know and whom you can name, who has suffered violence. Remember her name listen to the words of the Psalm as if it were the voice and words of this woman.*)

- 1 Give ear to my prayer, O God; do not hide yourself from my supplication.
- 2 Attend to me, and answer me; I am troubled in my complaint. I am distraught
- 3 by the noise of the enemy, because of the clamor of the wicked. For they bring trouble upon me, and in anger they cherish enmity against me.
- 4 My heart is in anguish within me, the terrors of death have fallen upon me.
- 5 Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror overwhelms me.
- 6 And I say, "O that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest;
- 7 truly, I would flee far away; I would lodge in the wilderness;
- 8 I would hurry to find a shelter for myself from the raging wind and tempest."
- 9 Confuse, O Lord, confound their speech; for I see violence and strife in the city.
- 10 Day and night they go around it on its walls, and iniquity and trouble are within it;
- 11 ruin is in its midst; oppression and fraud do not depart from its marketplace.
- 12 It is not enemies who taunt me— I could bear that; it is not adversaries who deal insolently with me— I could hide from them.
- 13 But it is you, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend,
- 14 with whom I kept pleasant company; we walked in the house of God with the throng.

♪ **El Senyor és la meva força**

Jacques Berthier: France

El Se - nyor és la me - va for - ça, el Se - nyor el meu  
 In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re -  
 Mei - ne Hoff - nung und mei - ne Freu - de, mei - ne Stär - ke, mein  
 O ma joie et mon es - pé - ran - ce le Sei - gneur est mon

cant. Ell m'ha es - tat la sal - va - ci - ó. En ell con - fi - o i no tinc  
 joice! Look to God, do not be a - fraid, lift up your voic - es, the Lord is  
 Licht, Chri - stus, mei - ne Zu - ver - sicht, auf dich ver - trau ich und fürcht mich  
 chant. C'est de lui que vient le par - don. En lui j'es - pé - re, je ne crains

por, en ell con - fi - o i no tinc por.  
 near; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near.  
 nicht, auf dich ver - trau ich und fürcht mich nicht.  
 rien. En lui j'es - pé - re, je ne crains rien.

Music J. Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé-Communauté, France

## **Prayer**

Let us pray.

God of love, we give you thanks for the signs of life and hope among us, even though they are tiny and being overshadowed by oppressive powers that sometimes seem so strong and dominating. We pray for life giving power we receive from you.

We pray for all people that are courageously struggling to end violence against women.

We pray for all people that are protesting in the streets, squares and churches, remembering those who are not among us anymore.

We pray for men who have not yet learned how to express their emotions and affections and for those who have chosen to dominate through violence; we pray for their transformation and repentance. We pray for your wisdom, guiding and sustaining all men who are courageously seeking help and breaking the cycle of violence.

We pray for all institutions and shelters that are welcoming victims and survivors, or are working with the perpetrators. We pray for all refugees, and for those who are giving their lives in the defense of women human rights.

We pray for all churches that are assuming their prophetic role, denouncing gender based violence.

We pray for love, peace and justice among us.

In Jesus name, who taught us to pray...

**Our Lord's Prayer** *(in our own language)*

## **A Blessing for those working to end violence against women**

God bless you  
with insight to recognize violence in all its forms, and courage to name it,  
speaking out for justice. **Amen.**

The Lord Jesus bless you with compassion for the vulnerable, and grace to stand with them, sharing his strength. **Amen.**

The Holy Spirit bless you with a prayerful heart, and power to breathe peace, transforming the world. **Amen.**

The blessing of the holy and glorious Trinity, eternal Wisdom, living Word, abiding Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

**Sending** (*Psalm 36:7*)

**How precious is your steadfast love, O God!  
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.**

Litany of lament and blessing adapted from: <http://gracepoint.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Liturgy-for-prayer-for-an-end-violence-against-women.pdf>