



making
change

Week of Lent 1: Change of Season

“For everything there is a season.” We hear those familiar words telling us that life is full of changes. Jesus’ parables are also filled with images of life transformed. Just as the mustard seed grows into a tree or yeast turns flour into bread, we too are called to be agents of change in the kingdom of God. Christ did not come to earth to maintain the status quo, but rather to usher in a change of season.

Opening Dialogue

(Based on ELW 757, “All my hope on God is founded”)

O God, you are the source of our hope.

Guide us through change and chance.

When we grow weary and faint,

call our hearts to be your own.

When our plans fall to dust,

be our temple and our tower

When the world lacks joy and beauty,

reveal your splendor, light, and life.

O God, we praise you for the gift of your Son.

Strengthen us to follow the way of the cross.

Prayer of the Day

(Gen. 8:22)

O God of the ages, your creation revolves through seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night. When the seasons come and go and uncertainty looms ahead, we long for the constancy of your love. Give us courage, wisdom, and patience to be your agents of change in the world. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.

Hymn

“As the Sun With Longer Journey,” ELW 329

Psalm

¹Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

²**Before the mountains were brought forth or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

³You turn us^[b] back to dust and say, “Turn back, you mortals.”

⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past or like a watch in the night.**

⁵You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;

⁶**in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.**

⁷For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

⁸**You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

⁹For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰**The days of our life are seventy years or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span^[d] is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.**

¹¹Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.

¹²**So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.**

¹³Turn, O Lord! How long? Have compassion on your servants!

¹⁴**Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**

¹⁵Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us and as many years as we have seen evil.

¹⁶**Let your work be manifest to your servants and your glorious power to their children.**

¹⁷Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and prosper for us the work of our hands-- O prosper the work of our hands!

Psalm Prayer

Eternal Father, you alone are the constant refuge of all the children of earth. Hold all our years in the day of your grace, and grant us wisdom to serve you faithfully throughout our span of life. In the hour of death, O God, receive us into the light of your steadfast love, and satisfy us in the resurrection of morning with life that never ends; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:

- ² a time to be born and a time to die;
- a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- ³ a time to kill and a time to heal;
- a time to break down and a time to build up;
- ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh;
- a time to mourn and a time to dance;
- ⁵ a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together;
- a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;
- ⁶ a time to seek and a time to lose;
- a time to keep and a time to throw away;
- ⁷ a time to tear and a time to sew;
- a time to keep silent and a time to speak;
- ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate;
- a time for war and a time for peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 13:18-21

[Jesus] said therefore, “What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? ¹⁹ It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.” ²⁰ And again he said, “To what should I compare the kingdom of God? ²¹ It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

Hymn

“Great is Thy Faithfulness,” ELW 733