**Learning Lament: Crafting and Scheduling Laments for Communal Worship**

Dr. Gail Ramshaw, presenter

*This handout accompanies the Institute of Liturgical Studies virtual seminar for Tuesday, April 13, 2021; the video may be viewed at URL*

**Introduction**

the words “sorry” and “lament”

**Primer for lament: the Psalms**

the singular wording of plural intent in the psalms … the psalms’ reliance on metaphor … guilt … the time lament will take

**Topics for communal lament**

how our confessions of sins are lament … specificity … a list of topics for lament … classifying disaster as punishment … public tragedies requiring communal lament … grief private or public

**Theological consideration of lament**

Augustine … Luther … liberation theologies

**Resources we already have**

the spirituals of the enslaved … the General Prayer … the Great Litany … hymns of lament used more regularly … hymns during wartime … commemoration of a history of Christian suffering … materials in *ELW*, *LSB*, and *ACS*

**Crafting your own communal laments**

Mood … niceness … to whom is the lament addressed … describing God … presuppositions about your assembly … skin colors in your assembly … imputing blame … prayer next January 6 … next September 11 … assembly access the text … who crafted it … law/gospel … beyond words … next Sunday

**Preaching lament**

the psalms … the Revised Common Lectionary

**Scheduling communal laments**

on a regular Sunday … other worship opportunities … commemorations

Threesome: truth, time, tone

*A suggested bibliography is included on the following page*

**Suggested Bibliography**

*All Creation Sings.* Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2021.

Billman, Kathleen D., and Daniel L. Migliore. *Rachel’s Cry: Prayer of Lament and Rebirth of Hope* Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2006.

*In These and Similar Words: Crafting Language for Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2015.

Jinkins, Michael. *In the House of the Lord: Inhabiting the Psalms of Lament*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1998.

Presbyterian Church (USA). *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching, and the Arts* 52, no. 3, “Liturgy and Violence.”

Ramshaw, Gail. *Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks: A Collection of Litanies, Laments, and Thanksgivings at Font and Table.* Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2017.