

2021-04-03 Meditation for Holy Saturday at: <https://pgimf.org/meditations/>

## **The Lamentation**

Music: Edward C. Bairstow (1874-1946; composed in 1942)  
Lyrics: Verses from Lamentations (*Book of Common Prayer*)  
selected by The Very Rev. E.M. Milner-White, Dean of York  
Artists: Tewkesbury Abbey Choir School, Andrew Sackett (dir.)

### **I. “The prophet mourneth for the sins of the people of God”**

[Full choir]

- 1 How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people  
how is she become as a widow!
- 2 She that was great among the nations, and princess among the provinces:  
how is she become tributary!

[The two sides of the choir sing antiphonally, starting with the deaconi.]

- 3 She weepeth sore in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks:  
among all her lovers, she hath none to comfort her.

[2<sup>nd</sup> music setting ]

- 4 The ways of Zion do mourn, because none come to the solemn assembly:  
all her gates are desolate, and she herself is in bitterness.
- 5 The Lord hath afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions:  
her children are gone into captivity before the enemy. Lam. 1:1-5

[All voices in unison]

- 6 All they that go by clap their hands at her:  
they hiss, and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem saying,

[3<sup>rd</sup> music setting, new harmonies, still strong unison]

- 7 “Is this the city that men called the perfection of beauty;  
the joy of the whole earth?” Lam. 2:15

### **Refrain: Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return unto the Lord thy God.**

Monastic refrain sung after Lamentations during Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil

### **II. “Christ recalleth us to God by his passion”**

[Returning to the 1st music setting, the two sides of the choir return to singing antiphonally,]

- 8 For these things I weep:

- mine eye runneth down with water. Lam. 1:16a
- 9 From on high hath the Lord sent fire into my bones, and it prevaieth  
against them:  
he hath made me desolate and faint all the day. Lam. 1:13a
- 10 My flesh and my skin hath he made old:  
he hath broken my bones. Lam. 3:4
- 11 He hath builded against me;  
and compassed me with gall and travail. Lam. 3:5
- 12 He hath made me to dwell in dark places:  
as those that have been long dead. Lam. 3:6
- [Men in unison, returning to the 2<sup>nd</sup> musical setting]
- 13 I am become a derision to all my people:  
and their song all the day. Lam. 3:14
- 14 Let him give his cheek to him that smiteth him:  
let him be filled full with reproach. Lam. 3:30
- [Boys in unison]
- 15 Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by:  
behold and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow. Lam. 1:12a
- 16 Remember mine affliction and my misery:  
the wormwood and the gall. Lam. 3:19

**Refrain: Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return unto the Lord thy God.**

**III. "The Church repenteth and turneth again"**

- [4<sup>th</sup> music setting, the two sides of the choir sings antiphonally.]
- 17 Remember, O Lord, what is come upon us:  
behold and see our reproach. Lam. 5:1
- 18 The joy of our heart is ceased:  
our dance is turned into mourning. Lam. 5:15
- 19 The crown is fallen from our head:  
woe unto us, for we have sinned. Lam. 5:16
- 20 For this our heart is faint:  
for these things our eyes are dim. Lam. 5:17
- 21 Let us search and try our ways:  
and turn again unto the Lord. Lam. 3:40
- 22 Turn thou us unto thee, O Lord, and we shall be turned:  
renew our days as of old. Lam. 5:21
- 23 It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed:

because his compassions fail not. Lam. 3:22  
24 They are new every morning:  
great is thy faithfulness. Lam. 3:23  
25 The Lord is my portion, saith my soul:  
therefore will I hope in him. Lam. 3:24  
26 O Lord, thou hast pleaded the causes of my soul:  
thou hast redeemed my life. Lam. 3:58

**Refrain: Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return unto the Lord thy God.**

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