Prayer at the Throne of Grace

I think of lament as crying out to the Lord in a time of need, hoping and trusting He will care for me. This girl comes to the Lord when she is troubled and in pain, ensnared by the thorns of the world. Through God's mercy and grace, she is surrounded by love and peace.

"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."
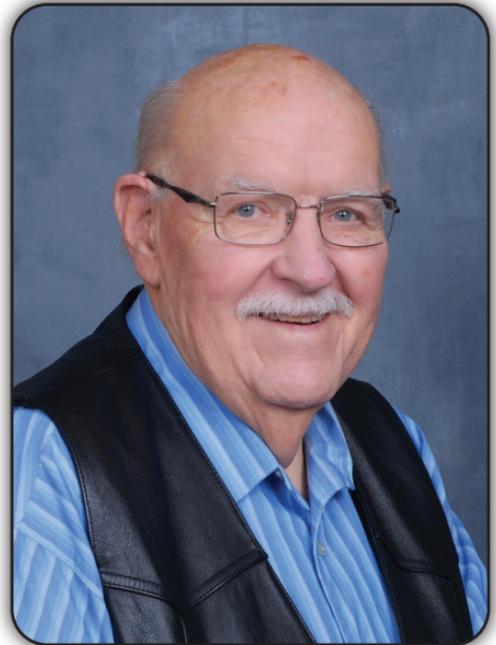(Hebrews 4:16)

Amber Kirkegaard✦Painting

Seasonal Sunset

How can I lament seasonal change that brings this beauty?

Fall season photo from the Denali Highway rendered through FotoSketcher, computer painting program.

Budd Goodyear ✦ Photography

Tears of Lament in Prayer

These nature photos capture the beauty and significance of raindrops, mirroring our cries to God during lament in prayer, cries that are sometimes filled with tears.

There is beauty in our tears to God, and rain signifies this thought in my heart. He hears each of our cries and longs to be near the brokenhearted and heal their wounds. As the rain falls and so do our tears, our Heavenly Father is near us and listens to us in our pain, hurt, and brokenness.

Christina Bucher✦Photography

Holy Tears

"Then the Lord God said, Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken." Genesis 3:22-23

"And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart." Genesis 6:6

"And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Mark 15:24

From the Garden to the flood to the cross, God understand the depths of pain and regret known as lamentation.

Cris Adams✦Mixed Media

When Cancer Joined the Family

"When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid; indeed, the deep trembled. The clouds poured out water; the skies gave forth thunder; your arrows flashed on every side. The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lighted up the world; the earth trembled and shook. Your way was through the sea, your path through the great waters; yet your footprints were unseen. You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron."
Psalm 77: 16-20

The 3 1/2 years when my son Joel was going through cancer treatments were obviously sad and scary. I had to cling to Jesus and not look at the waves lapping at my ankles, or I'd drown in them. This Psalm was one I held tight, as it reminded me when I brought this sadness and fear to Jesus that the scary things are scared of HIM. The one who holds me is the one who holds it all. His way for our family, and for my son, was straight through the storm. And while there were times I yelled at Him, or cried my face off at His feet, He NEVER left us. He guided us through it. He held my baby and grieved this broken creation right along with us. And He showed us His unrelenting love through His people—a lot of you guys, in fact! Thanks for being the active presence of God in our time of need.

Adrianne Shelton✦Painting

The Lament of an Empty Womb

This piece was exceptionally difficult to start. Every time I thought about it, though, I felt very strongly that I should attempt it.

So many of us feel so alone when we face miscarriage or childlessness. It is a grief so heavy and so close to our hearts. It feels too intimate to share sometimes and the weight can be overwhelming. I want desperately for us to know in those seasons, short or long, that we are not alone. It is a grief we share in common. And God does not leave us there. The Holy Spirit is with us and will comfort us and God has given us each other to come alongside and bear this burden with one another. We help each other pick up the pieces of our shattered hearts and take them to Jesus. There we find peace and hope.

Anna Pianalto✦Watercolor