



Prayer/Candle 4: Lamentations 2:10-13, 21a

Side A: The elders of Daughter Zion sit on the ground in silence; they have sprinkled dust on their heads and put on sackcloth. The young women of Jerusalem have bowed their heads to the ground.

Side B: My eyes fail from weeping, I am in torment within; my heart is poured out on the ground because my people are destroyed, because children and infants faint in the streets of the city.

Side A:
they faint like the wounded in the streets of the city, as their lives ebb away

Side B: What can I say for you? With what can I compare you, Daughter Jerusalem? To what can I liken you, that I may comfort you, Virgin Daughter Zion? Your wound is as deep as the sea. Who can heal you?

All:
young men and young women have fallen by the sword.

Prayer/Candle 5: Isaiah and a Story of Guatemalan Genocide

Speaker: A reading from the Book of Isaiah:
Is this the manner of fasting I wish, of keeping a day of penance:

All: That you bow your head like a reed, and lie in sackcloth and ashes? Do you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

Speaker: I am Rigoberta and I am an indigenous Guatemalan woman. My mother and brother were tortured and killed by the army, and my father died when he was burned alive, along with 38 other people, by members of the army at the Spanish Embassy in 1980.

All: Is this the manner of fasting I wish?

Speaker: My name is Rosa and I am an indigenous Guatemalan woman. My parents were executed when I was five. I crawled out from the hiding place where my mother had placed me when I saw the soldiers coming. For days, I sat for two days with my parents' dead bodies waiting for someone to come. Finally, my uncle arrived, and we hid in the mountains, eating grass to ward off their hunger. We came to Cotzal after wandering for a long time, and I grew up here, but this is not my land.

All: Is this the manner of fasting I wish?

Speaker: We are the residents of the town of Dos Erres, Guatemala. Disguised as guerrillas, government special forces units attacked our village. Men were herded into the school building and the women into two ch fastird hed lage-3(he2x)9(e)a9i2a9i2a9i2a4(w 593TBT1 -19(m381 0 o

All: Is this the manner of fasting I wish?

Speaker: This rather, is the manner of fasting I wish:
Releasing those bound unjustly

wound shall be quickly healed; your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Exult are you O God, you remember your Guatemalan children, you hear their cries, you see their hardships. Help us to hear with your

ears and see with your eyes, that we may act as your liberating and reconciling hands.

Prayer/Can

Horror

Speaker: What prompted the genocide? There are things you can point to. The Hutus had long-standing resentments against the Tutsis, who formed the nation's elite. They had the better houses, better jobs.

Radio broadcasts called day and night for the Hutus to go out and kill Tutsis and the Hutus were told by their own leaders that if they didn't join the killers, they would join the dead.

There are things you can point to, but do they explain what happened? What could possibly explain what happened?

Here's one explanation from one killer who had been Immaculee's neighbor, Alex Ntibirukee, who spent 11 years in prison after admitting he killed six people:

All: "They told me that I would be rewarded with a piece of land and a banana plantation. They told the same to other people, but you see they didn't give me any banana plantation. They told us to kill, and we killed. We just did it."

Speaker: He had grown up with Immaculee and been her family's handyman. Asked if he and the others would have killed Immaculee had they discovered her, Ntibirukee says:

All: "Because of the way I was, I would have attacked her definitely."

Speaker: For days, then weeks, then months, the seven women stayed squeezed into the tiny bathroom, surrounded by evil.

Asked what was going through her mind, sitting in the bathroom hour after hour, Immaculee says:

All: "How are they going to catch us. Where they will start cutting you. If they will rape you."

Speaker: She says she was terrified the entire time she was cooped up in the tiny space. They all expected to be killed, eventually. One said she just hoped she'd be shot and not tortured; another made the pastor promise to put dirt on her corpse so dogs wouldn't eat her.

And what did the women have to eat? Not much.

there was this little insect that came out of the beans. And he brought it. It was, 'Jesus, well how am I going to eat it?'"

Speaker: But after a while, she managed to eat, by closing her eyes. Still, Immaculee said she lost 40 pounds - one third of herself disappeared during her three months hidden in the bathroom.

at my hands. And I was like, 'This is what the biologists used to tell us, you know. We are really- can see every bone.'

(Pause)

All: Help us, oh, exalted God, to remember the genocides of Rwanda which we keep at a comfortable distance. Empower us to act in accordance with the challenge our memory brings.

Speaker: In the camp we would assemble in the darkness. To light a candle there, or even a match, would have brought immediate disaster upon us. We spoke about matters of the spirit and eternal questions, about God, about Jews in the world, about the eternity of Israel. In the midst of the darkness, I sensed light in the unlit room, the light of the Torah.

Reflection

Prayers of the Faithful:

Speaker: For the victims of genocide, both past and present

All: Have mercy

Speaker: For those who have died in concentration camps

All: Have mercy

Speaker: For those who died at Auschwitz

All: Have mercy

Speaker: For all those who died at

All: Have mercy

Speaker: For all those who died in Belzec

All: Have mercy

Speaker: For all those who died in Majdanek

All: Have mercy

Speaker: For all those who died in Sobibor

All: Have mercy

Speaker: For all those who died in Treblinka

All: Have mercy

Speaker: For all those who have died in modern genocide

All: Have mercy

Speaker: For all those who have died in the genocide and civil war in Guatemala and Rwanda

All: Have mercy

Speaker: For all those displaced by war and brutality

All: Have mercy

Speaker: For women, men and children

All: Have mercy

Speaker: For the maimed and the crippled

All: Have mercy

Speaker: For the abandoned and the homeless

All: Have mercy

Speaker: For the imprisoned and the tortured

All: Have mercy

Speaker: For the widowed and the orphaned

All: Have mercy

Speaker: