

## **#7: Canticle of the Turning**

Listen to track 7 of *Songs of Justice and Peace*.

You can find the words in ELW 723. (Evangelical Lutheran Worship)

### **Scriptures:**

“The earth is the Lord’s, and all that is in it, the world and those who dwell therein.” Psalm 24:1

“...When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” Luke 21:28

### **Devotions:**

Inner city work can mean endless service opportunities! Excitement!

However, walking through streets of condemned buildings, tutoring children from broken homes, knowing individuals with many troubles, and witnessing great hunger in many forms can be overwhelming -- to the point of sickness. The needs surpass more than what we can offer, causing our bodies to grow weary and our hearts to be faint. Sometimes we feel guilty about our inability to save the city.

Our hope is in a loving, caring God who *is* already at work as we wait for the time when “night” has completely vanished away. Those who work in the city look to a day when sufferings will be no more, and all mouths will be fed. Until then, God gives us a glimpse of new dawn. Restoration efforts happen through us! God, the God of our crushed hearts, uses us to reach others in “turning the world around.”

### **Prayer:**

Dear Savior of all, when we grow weary and discouraged, You are still there. We are small, but You continue to work great things in and through our small efforts. Save us Lord, and remind us of Your saving work. Amen.

### **Reflection:**

Think about your experience in a city. What do you especially notice that leaves you feeling faint or yearning for the “dawn?” By contrast, where do you see God “turning the world around” right now?

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*The Lutheran Deaconess Association prepares people for ministries of service to those in need in the church and the world; supports deaconesses in their varied ministries; encourages the whole people of God in their own Christian service; and assists the church in its diaconal mission.*

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