

A close-up photograph of a hand, likely Jesus', with a nail in the palm. The hand is positioned against a dark background, with a wooden surface visible on the left side. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the skin and the nail.

*"My God, my God, why
have you forsaken me?"*

*Lenten Vespers
Fourth Word from the Cross*

March 11, 2026

Prelude Music

The congregation's candles are lit as the priest enters.

Priest: Light and peace in Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Priest: Let us pray. Heavenly Father,

All: **we light these candles to thank you for the light of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord. May we who journey through the darkness of Lent be led by the radiance of your one true light. This we ask in the name of Jesus, your son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.**

Hymn: - #14 CP - "O GRACIOUS LIGHT, LORD JESUS CHRIST

All sing

O Gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ, in you the Father's glory shone.

Immortal, holy, blest is he, and blest are you, his holy Son.

Now sunset comes, but light shines forth, the lamps are lit to pierce the night.

Praise Father, Son, and Spirit: God, who dwells in the eternal light.

Worthy are you of endless praise, O Son of God, Life-giving Lord;

Wherefore you are through all the earth and in the highest heaven adored. Reader:

The Blessing of the Light

Priest: 

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: 

It is right to give our thanks and praise.



The soloist sings the refrain, all repeat:

Bless-ed are you! Bless-ed are you! Bless-ed are you, O Lord our God!

The image shows a musical score for a soloist. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music is a simple, rhythmic setting of the refrain.

Priest: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, the shepherd of Israel, their pillar of cloud by day, their pillar of fire by night.

All sing the refrain

Priest: In these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance, that in this pilgrimage of prayer we might learn to be your people once more.

All sing the refrain

Priest: You open our eyes to our many blessings, especially that of your own presence, and you free our hands to lead others to the radiant splendour of your mercy.

All sing the refrain

Priest: Be with us in these journey days, for without you we are lost and will perish. To you alone be dominion and glory, forever and ever. Amen.

All sing the refrain

All may extinguish their candles and be seated for the reading of scripture.



A Reading from the Prophet Nehemiah

From heaven you heard them, and in your great compassion you gave them deliverers, who rescued them from the hand of their enemies. “But as soon as they were at rest, they again did what was evil in your sight. Then you abandoned them to the hand of their enemies so that they ruled over them. And when they cried out to you again, you heard from heaven, and in your compassion you delivered them time after time. You warned them in order to turn them back to your law, but they became arrogant and disobeyed your commands. They sinned against your ordinances, of which you said, ‘The person who obeys them will live by them.’ Stubbornly they turned their backs on you, became stiff-necked and refused to listen. For many years you were patient with them. By your Spirit you warned them through your prophets. Yet they paid no attention, so you gave them into the hands of the neighboring peoples. But in your great mercy you did not put an end to them or abandon them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.

Nehemiah 9: 27b -31

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark.

Mark 15.33-39

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?’ which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, ‘Listen, he is calling for Elijah.’ And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, ‘Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.’ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, ‘Truly this man was God’s Son!’

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection – *Father Daniel Brereton*



Solo: #504 AAHH - "LOVE LIFTED ME"

Priest: O living God, in Jesus Christ you were laid in the tomb at this evening hour, and thereby sanctified the grave to be a bed of hope to your people. Give us courage and faith to die daily to all that separates us from your love, and renew us in the waters of your salvation. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: Lord it is night.

People: **The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the presence of God.**

Priest: It is night after a long day.

People: **What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be.**

Priest: The night is dark.

People: **Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you.**

Priest: The night is quiet.

People: **Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace.**

Priest: The night heralds the dawn.

People: **Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities.**

Priest: Come like the light of these candles, O Spirit of God, and make within us your dwelling place and home. May our darkness be dispelled by your light, and all evils be redeemed by your love, all pain transformed through the suffering of Christ, and all dying glorified by his risen life.

People: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Priest: Gathering all our cares into one, let us pray,

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen**

Hymn: “WERE YOU THERE?”

All sing

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

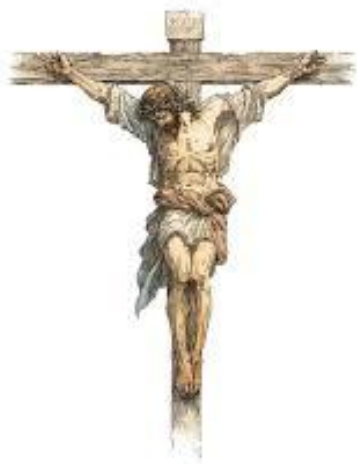
Were you there when he burst the bonds of death?
Were you there when he burst the bonds of death?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when he burst the bonds of death?

Priest: Go forth in the name of Christ, trusting in God’s steadfast love for you.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All music is reproduced under CCLI #11166483 and Streaming License # 20191873.

Thank you to all that participated in the service tonight.





Our Lenten Vespers services are at 7:00 p.m. on the following dates:

- Wednesday, March 18th
- Wednesday, March 25th



Our Holy Week services are as follows:

- Palm Sunday – March 29th at 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
- Holy Wednesday Eucharist – April 1st at 10 a.m.
- Maundy Thursday Service - April 2nd at 7:30 p.m
- Garden Watch and Compline – April 2nd at 8:30 p.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Good Friday service – April 3rd at 10:00 a.m.
- Easter Day – April 5th at 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.