

EASY PRINT – Lenten Vespers Five – March 25, 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: #20 - “DAY IS DONE, BUT LIGHT UNFAILING”

All sing

Day is done, but love unfailing dwells ever here;
Shadows fall, but hope, prevailing, calms every fear.
Loving Father, none forsaking, take our hearts, of Love's own making,
Watch our sleeping, guard our waking, be always near.

Dark descends, but light unending shines through our night;
You are with us, ever lending new strength to sight:
One in love, your truth confessing, one in hope of heaven's blessing,
May we see, in love's possessing, love's endless light!

Eyes will close, but you unsleeping watch by our side;
Death may come, in love's safekeeping still we abide
God of love, all evil quelling, sin forgiving, fear dispelling,
Stay with us, our hearts indwelling, this eventide.

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!

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.

Reader: A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy

For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

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 resurrection. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The Blessing of the Light

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.
In your name we pray. Amen.**

Priest: Come, O Spirit of God, and make within us your dwelling place and home. May our darkness be dispelled by your light, and our troubles calmed by your peace; may 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: #509 - "PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND"

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near, when my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near, and the day is past and gone,
At the river, I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Dismissal

Priest: It is finished! God's work in Christ is accomplished, now let us go forth to
let Christ's work be accomplished in us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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Thank you to all that participated in the service tonight.