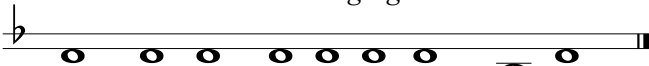


# EASY PRINT – The Lenten Vespers Two – March 19, 2025

## Prelude

Welcome – Fr. Daniel

*The congregations' candles are lit.*

Priest:   
Light and peace in Je-sus 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 LOVE UNFAILING”**


*All sing*

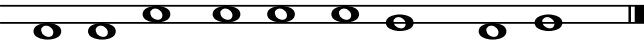
Day is done, but love unfailing dwells ever here  
Shadows fall, but hope, prevailing, calms every fear.  
Loving Father, none forsaking, take our hearts of Love's own making  
Watch our sleeping, guard our waking, be always near.

Dusk 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 choir 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.

In fasting from wrath, we seek to become people of patience and calm.

*All sing the refrain*

Priest: You open our eyes to your presence in the world  
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*

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

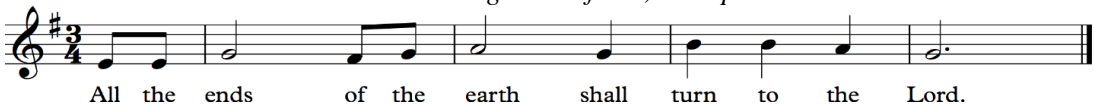
*The reader concludes saying,*

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm #22.22-30

*The Choir sings the refrain, all repeat*

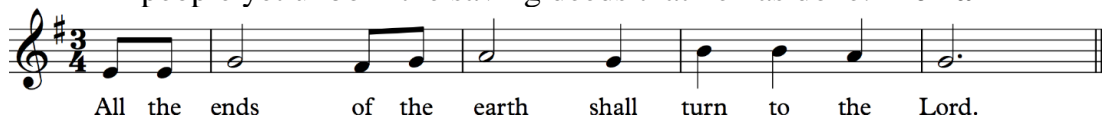


Cantor: Praise the Lord, you that fear him; stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory. For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his face from them; but when they cry to him, he hears them. **Refrain**

Cantor: My praise is of him in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: "May your heart live for ever!" All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him. **Refrain**

Cantor: For kingship belongs to the Lord; he rules over the nations. To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him. **Refrain**

Cantor: My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall live for him; they shall be known as the Lord's for ever. They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done. **Refrain**



Reader: A Reading from the Gospel of John.

John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Reflection** – *Father Daniel Brereton*

## The Prayers & Lenten Prose

*All join the Cantor in singing:*



Hear us, O Lord, have mer-cy up-on us: for we have sin-ned a - gainst thee.

Cantor: To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory, lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings; listen, O Jesu, to our supplications.

*All sing the refrain*

Cantor: O thou chief corner-stone, Right Hand of the Father, Way of salvation, Gate of life celestial; cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement.

*All sing the refrain*

Cantor: God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated, bow down and hearken to thy weeping children; pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.

*All sing the refrain*

Cantor: Sins oft committed now we lay before thee; with true contrition, now no more we veil them; grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.

*All sing the refrain*

Cantor: Innocent captive, taken unresisting, falsely accused, and for us sinners sentenced; save us, we pray thee, Jesu our Redeemer.

*All sing the refrain*

*A moment of quiet is observed as people offer their own prayers in silence.*

Priest: Come, O Spirit of God,  
All: **and turn our proud and disobedient hearts towards you. Open our eyes to see before us the light of our salvation. Forgive us for our destructive anger and for words and actions that have hurt and wounded. Give us patience and gentleness to be agents of healing and reconciliation. We ask this in the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Hymn:** (Tune #482) - "ANGRY WORDS"

*All sing*

Angry words! Oh, let them never from the tongue unbridled slip;  
May the heart's best impulse ever keep them passing from the lip.  
"Love each other" says our Saviour, and be blest by God's own hand,  
"Love each other, as I've loved you" This to us is his command.

Love is much too pure and holy, free of fear and free of guilt,  
For a moment's reckless folly to destroy all trust has built  
"Love each other" says our Saviour, and be blest by God's own hand,  
"Love each other, as I've loved you" This to us is his command.

Angry words are lightly spoken; bitter thoughts are rashly stirred  
Brightest links of life are broken, by a single angry word.  
"Love each other" says our Saviour, and be blest by God's own hand,  
"Love each other, as I've loved you" This to us is his command.

## **Act of Faith**

Priest: We began our Lenten journey with the sign of ashes, a symbol of repentance for those things that have divided us from God and from one another. Tonight we reflect on the sin of wrath, and how God frees us from it's grip by cultivating within us the fruits of patience and gentleness.

I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord, to come to the cross and laying your hand upon it, confess your sin silently to Christ, with a word, a name or just an image in your mind of who or what you have been directing your anger towards. Leave it there with Jesus, and as you walk away from the cross, re-light your candle and ask God to give you patience and a heart that can respond gently to those who try your patience.

*Please bring your vigil candle with you*

*The hymn: "Were You There, When They Crucified My Lord?" will be softly played.*

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 raise us to new life in him who died and rose from death, Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.

All: **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:** #573 - "O DAY OF PEACE"

*All sing*

O day of peace that dimly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams  
Guide us to justice, truth and love delivered from our selfish schemes.  
May swords of hate fall from our hands our hearts from envy find release  
Till by God's grace our warring world shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce devour the small  
as beasts and cattle calmly graze, a little child shall lead them all  
Then enemies shall learn to love, all creatures find their true accord  
The hope of peace shall be fulfilled for all the earth shall know the Lord!

### Dismissal:

Priest: Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.  
Go forth, leaving wrath to God, and praying for peace in your heart.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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Thank you to all that participated in the service.