

EASY PRINT – The Lenten Vespers Three – March 26, 2025

Prelude

The congregations' candles are lit.

[illegible]

Light and joy 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: #25 - “GLORY TO THEE, O GOD THIS NIGHT”

All sing

Glory to thee, my God this night, for all the blessings of the light
Keep me, O keep me King of kings, beneath thine own almighty wings.

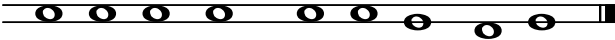
Forgive me Lord, for thy dear Son, the ill that I this day have done,
That with the world, thyself and thee, I ere I sleep, at peace may be.

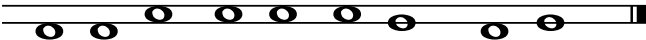
Oh may my soul on thee repose and my sweet sleep my eyelids close
Sleep that shall me more vigorous make to serve my God when I awake.

When in the night I sleepless lie, my soul with heavenly thoughts supply,
Let no ill dreams disturb my rest, no powers of darkness me molest.


Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

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 apathy, we seek to become people of duty and service.

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

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Sirach

Sirach 6: 18-28

My child, from your youth choose discipline, and when you have grey hair you will still find Wisdom. Come to her like one who ploughs and sows, and wait for her good harvest. For when you cultivate her you will toil but little, and soon you will eat of her produce. She seems very harsh to the undisciplined; fools cannot remain with her. She will be like a heavy stone to test them, and they will not delay in casting her aside. For wisdom is like her name; she is not readily perceived by many. Listen, my child, and accept my judgement, do not reject my counsel. Put your feet into the fetters of discipline and your neck into the collar of diligence. Bend your shoulders and carry Wisdom, and do not fret under her bonds. Come to her with all your soul and keep her ways with all your might. Search out and seek, and she will become known to you; and when you get hold of her, do not let her go. For at last you will find the rest Wisdom gives, and discipline will be changed into joy for you.

The reader concludes saying,

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Reader: A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Matthew 26: 36-46

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.' Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' Again he went away for the second time and prayed, 'My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.' Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.'

The reader concludes saying,

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection – *Father Daniel Brereton*

The Prayers & Lenten Prose



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.

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 indolence and apathy towards you and towards others. Give us diligent hearts willing to commit to the work you would have us do to share the Gospel and spread your Kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hymn: (Tune #519) - “A DILIGENT AND GRATEFUL HEART”

All sing

A diligent and grateful heart prompts me to sing Thy praise.
Thy love and mercies from the start have blessed me all my days.

I thank Thee for the means to serve with talents and with tithes,
For sharing brings the utmost joy when lifting other lives.

I show my gratitude to Thee and minister through deeds
To serve and share with patient care thy people in their needs.

O Lord, I dedicate myself, in this response to Thee.
Help me to carry out my call, in deep humility.

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 sloth, and how God frees us from it's grip by cultivating within us the fruits of diligence and perseverance

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, of times when you have neglected your duties to God and neighbour with an uncaring spirit. Leave your regret there with Jesus, and as you walk away from the cross, re-light your candle and ask God to kindle the fire of the Spirit within you, inspiring you to greater diligence as a disciple of Christ.

Please bring your vigil candle with you.

The hymn: “Amazing Grace” 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: #500 - "SISTER LET ME BE YOUR SERVANT"

All sing

Sister, let me be your servant. let me be as Christ to you.

Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road.

We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you In the night time of your fear.

I will hold my hand out to you; speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.

I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

Brother, let me be your servant. let me be as Christ to you.

Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

Dismissal

Priest: Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Rise, shine, and let the fire of God's Spirit fuel your desire to serve.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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