


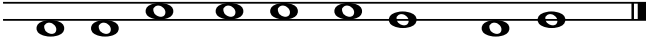
Lent Vespers
St. John's (Dixie)
Wednesday, April 2, 2025




The Sin of Greed
and
The Virtue of Charity

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 greed, we seek to become people of giving and generous hearts.

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

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

The reader concludes saying,

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Reader: A Reading from the Gospel of Luke.

Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to him, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.’ But he said to him, ‘Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?’ And he said to them, ‘Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.’ Then he told them a parable: ‘The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, “What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?” Then he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.’

The reader concludes saying,

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection – *Father Daniel Brereton*



Hymn: (Tune #533) - "BIGGER BARNS"

All sing

"Bigger barns are what I need!" So a rich man said one day.
"From my worries I'll be free when my wealth is stored away."
"Fool!" God said, "Today you'll die! Will your wealth mean anything?
All life's blessings really lie in my life that wealth can't bring."

"Bigger barns are what we need for our money, gadgets, more!"
Lord, we're tempted to believe having wealth, we'll be secure!
Somewhere children cry for food or to have a doctor's care.
Can our bigger barns be good when poor neighbors know despair?

God of love, we long to know what will make us truly blest.
Jesus taught us long ago wealth won't give us peace or rest.
You are our security! Safe in you, we serve, O Lord.
May we find we're rich indeed when we're sharing with the poor.

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 greed, and how God frees us from it's grip by cultivating within us the fruits of charity and generosity.

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 hoarded God's blessings for yourself. Leave your fear of scarcity there with Jesus, and as you walk away from the cross, light your candle and ask God to give you the light of an abiding sense of his abundant goodness and his promise to provide all that is needed.

Please bring your vigil candle with you.

The hymn: "My Song is Love Unknown" 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: #601 "GOD WHOSE GIVING KNOWS NO ENDING"

All sing

God, whose giving knows no ending, from Your rich and endless store:

Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door.

Gifted by You, we turn to You, offering up ourselves in praise:

Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, Your Son:

All at peace in health and freedom, people joined, the church made one.

Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone:

Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at Your throne.

Treasure, too, You have entrusted, gain through powers Your grace conferred:

Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the Gospel Word.

Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call.

Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving You by loving all.

Dismissal

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

Go forth to share with others God's abundant goodness.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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Thank you to our soloist and all who contributed to the music tonight.

Please join us next Wednesday at 7pm for Lenten Vespers.



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