



EASY PRINT – The Lenten Vespers Five – April 9, 2025

Prelude

The congregations' candles are lit.

Priest: 

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: #506 - “LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS”


All sing

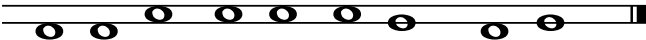
Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares can destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord at the noon of the day.

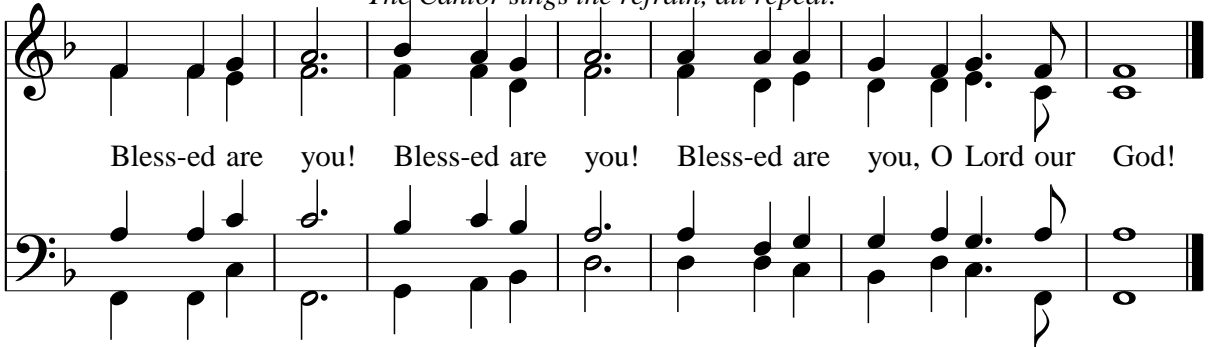
Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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 Cantor 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.
Through the practice of temperance, may we be freed from selfish
indulgence.

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

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

The reader concludes saying,

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Reader: A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

Matthew 6:25-33

Jesus said: 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

The reader concludes saying,

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.

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 over-indulgence and help us to manifest the spiritual fruit of self-control. We ask this in the name of the one who gave his life for us, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hymn: #508 - "I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY"

All sing

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto Me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down thy head upon My breast!"
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary worn and sad;
I found in Him a resting-place, and He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one, stoop down, and drink, and live!"
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's Light;
look unto Me, thy morn shall rise, and all thy day be bright!"
I looked to Jesus, and I found in Him my Star, my Sun;
and in that Light of life I'll walk, till all my journey's done.

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 gluttony, and how God frees us from it's grip by cultivating within us the fruits of temperance and self-control.

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 over-indulgence and lack of restraint. Leave your dependence on those comforts there with Jesus, who can meet our deepest hungers, and as you walk away from the cross, light your candle and ask God to give you power over anything that has power over you.

*Please bring your vigil candle with you.
The hymn: "One Bread, One Body" 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: #577 - "GUIDE ME O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH"

All sing

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me til I want no more!
Feed me til I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow,
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer, be Thou still my strength and shield!
be Thou still my strength and shield!

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's Destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever sing to thee!
I will ever sing to thee.

Dismissal

Priest: Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
Go forth, to care for your bodies, which are temples of God's Spirit.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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