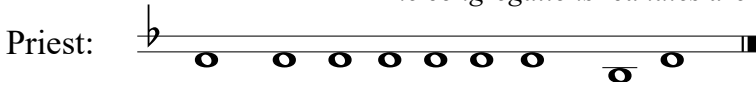


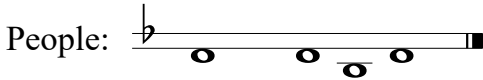
EASY PRINT – Lenten Vespers One – March 1, 2023

Prelude

The congregations' candles are lit.



Light and peace in Je-sus Christ our Lord!



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: #29 - "THE DAY THOU GAVEST"

Please rise in body or spirit & sing


The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended; the darkness falls at thy behest.
To thee our morning hymns ascended; thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

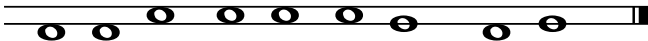
We thank thee that thy church unsleeping, while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world her watch is keeping, and rests not now by day or night.

As o'er each continent and island the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent, nor dies the strain of praise away.

So be it, Lord! Thy throne shall never, like earth's proud empires, pass away;
thy kingdom stands and grows forever, till all thy creatures own thy sway.

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 evil and serving goodness, you bring us back to your
heart.

All sing the refrain

Priest: You open our eyes to see our own guilt and our attempts to wash
ourselves clean; free us from the sin of Pilate, letting others suffer to
save ourselves.

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 Letter of James.

James 4: 4-10

Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you suppose that it is for nothing that the scripture says, ‘God yearns jealously for the spirit that he has made to dwell in us’? But he gives all the more grace; therefore it says, ‘God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt 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 27: 15-26

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, ‘Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?’ For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, ‘Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.’ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, ‘Which of the two do you want me to release for you?’ And they said, ‘Barabbas.’ Pilate said to them, ‘Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?’ All of them said, ‘Let him be crucified!’ Then he asked, ‘Why, what evil has he done?’ But they shouted all the more, ‘Let him be crucified!’ So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, ‘I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.’ Then the people as a whole answered, ‘His blood be on us and on our children!’ So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

The reader concludes saying,

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection – *Rev. Daniel Brereton*

Please be seated

Musical Offering - “O DIVINE REDEEMER”

sung by Laurel Tubman

Ah! Turn me not away, receive me tho' unworthy; Hear Thou my cry,
Behold, Lord, my distress! Answer me from thy throne Haste Thee, Lord to mine aid,
Thy pity shew in my deep anguish! Let not the sword of vengeance smite me,
Though righteous thine anger, O Lord! Shield me in danger, O regard me!
On Thee, Lord, alone will I call. O Divine Redeemer!
I pray Thee, grant me pardon, and remember not, remember not my sins!
Forgive me, O Divine Redeemer! Night gathers round my soul;
Fearful, I cry to Thee; Come to mine aid, O Lord!
Haste Thee, Lord, haste to help me! Hear my cry! Save me Lord in Thy mercy;
Come and save me O Lord Save, in the day of retribution,
From Death shield Thou me, O my God!
O Divine Redeemer, have mercy! Help me, my Saviour!

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.

All sing the refrain

Priest: Come, O Holy One of God, and turn our proud and disobedient hearts towards you. Open our eyes to see before us the light of our salvation. Forgive us from washing our hands of the suffering of others. Cleanse us with the purifying waters of your mercy and forgiveness. We ask this in your name. Amen.

People: **Amen.**

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.

Priest: Tonight, we heard of Pilate, washing his hands of the discord dividing the people and his willingness to sacrifice the innocent, to appease the crowd. Each of us, at times have been guilty of this –washing our hands of another’s suffering, giving in to injustice because it is easier than confronting it, turning a blind eye and a deaf ear to cries for help and mercy. I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord, to come to the baptismal font, where Christians make their commitment to Christ, and have your own hands washed, both as a reminder that **we were there** with Pilate as they crucified our Lord, but also as a reminder that in baptism, Christ cleanses us of these sins and forgives those who repent and turn back to him.

*The spiritual “Were You There When They Crucified My Lord”
is played softly as people come forward.*

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: # 505 - "BE THOU MY VISION"

Please rise in body or spirit & sing

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art –
thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father; thine own may I be, thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Riches I heed not, nor the world's empty praise; thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, first in my heart, high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven when victory is won, may I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Dismissal

Priest: Go forth on your Lenten journey,

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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