
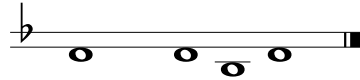


EASY PRINT – Lenten Vespers Two – March 8, 2023

Prelude

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.**

Please rise in body or spirit & sing

Hymn: #500 - “SISTER LET ME BE YOUR SERVANT”

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.

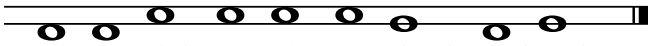
I will weep when you are weeping. when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

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.

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 and service you bring us back to your heart.

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 Letter to the Hebrews.

Hebrews 12: 1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

The reader concludes saying,

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 121

Please remain seated

The Cantor sings the refrain, all repeat

My__ help comes from the Lord, the ma-ker of heav-en and earth.

Cantor: I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. *Refrain*

Cantor: He will not let your foot be moved and he who watches over you will not fall asleep. Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. *Refrain*

Cantor: The Lord himself watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand, So that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. *Refrain*

Cantor: The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall keep you safe. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore. *Refrain*

Reader: A Reading from the Gospel of Luke.

Luke 23: 26-31

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, “Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.” Then they will begin to say to the mountains, “Fall on us”; and to the hills, “Cover us.” For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?’

The reader concludes saying,

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection – *Father Daniel Brereton*

Please be seated

Musical Offering – *Erin Noel*

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



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

Priest: Come, O Spirit of God, and make within us your dwelling place and home. May our darkness be dispelled by your light, and our troubles calmed by your peace; may all evils be redeemed by your love, all pain transformed through the suffering of Christ, and all dying glorified by his risen life.

People: **Amen.**

Act of Faith

Priest: When Jesus has told us to take up our cross, sometimes it can be even harder to take up the cross of another, especially when it may not be our choice to do it. The cross Simon laboured under was the cross of Jesus, as every cross we are called to bear- our own an those of others – are crosses that Jesus has promised to help us carry. I invite you therefore in the name of the Lord, to come forward and to lay your hand on the cross, a reminder that we were there with Simon as they crucified our Lord, and as a symbol of the crosses you bear. As you do so, place your trust more fully in the One who has said “Come unto me all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will refresh you.”

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



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 renew us in the waters of your salvation. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, the 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.**

Please rise in body or spirit & sing

Hymn: #386 - "WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS"

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Dismissal

Priest: Go forth in faith, to shoulder your cross and to bear one another's burdens, with the help and strength of Our Lord Jesus.

People: **Thanks be to God.**