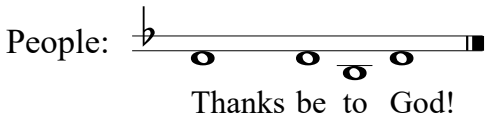
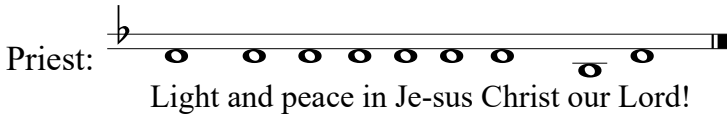


EASY PRINT – Lenten Vespers Three – March 15, 2023

Prelude

The congregations' candles are lit.



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, MY 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, myself, and thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

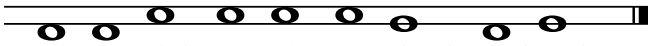
Teach me to live, that I may dread the grave as little as my bed;
teach me to die, that so I may rise glorious at the awful day.

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 him, all creatures here below;
praise him 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 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 of Paul to the Ephesians.

Ephesians 6.1-18

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

The reader concludes saying,

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Reader: A Reading from the Gospel of Mark.

Mark 15: 16-20

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

The reader concludes saying,

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection – *Father Daniel Brereton*

Musical Offering – *Bo Bardos*

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

Priest: Lord it is night.

People: **The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the presence of God.**

Priest: It is night after a long day.

People: **What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be.**

Priest: The night is dark.

People: **Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you.**

Priest: The night is quiet.

People: **Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace.**

Priest: The night heralds the dawn.

People: **Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. In your name we pray. Amen.**

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: We rightly recoil at the horror of nails driven into human flesh, and the thought of murdering another person, whether by crucifixion or some other violent means. Yet we stab one another in the back, with cruel comments and false judgement. We pour contempt on those who differ from us. There are times when to protect ourselves or to curry favour with those in power, we willingly strike a blow against others, or at least, turn a blind eye as others do. Therefore, I invite you in the name of the Lord, to come forward and place a nail upon the altar, as a reminder that we were there as the soldiers crucified Jesus and as a symbol of our complicity in the wounding of others: by our words, by our deeds and by our silence. As you place your nail seek both forgiveness and the courage and strength of Christ to speak out for and to stand with the suffering.

*The spiritual "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?"
will be played softly as 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.**

Hymn: #450 "YOU CALL US LORD TO BE "

All sing

**You call us, Lord, to be a people set apart,
to feel with thoughtful mind and think with tender heart.
Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask
for faith in your unfailing grace to make us equal to the task.**

**You call us, Lord, to care for self and neighbor too,
to take the risk, and dare to show what love can do.
Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask
for faith in your unfailing grace to make us equal to the task.**

**You call us, Lord, to serve: to die that we may live,
to know we best receive when joyfully we give.
Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask
for faith in your unfailing grace to make us equal to the task.**

Dismissal

Priest: Go forth in courage, to protect the helpless, to speak for the voiceless and to stand with the forsaken.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

