

EASY PRINT – Lenten Vespers Four – March 18, 2026

Prelude Music

The congregation's candles are lit as the priest enters.

Priest: Light and peace in Jesus 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: #508 “I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY ”

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest.

Lay down, O weary one, lay down your 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.

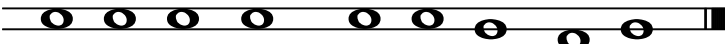
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

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 travelling days are done.

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 soloist sings the refrain, all repeat:

The musical score is written for a soloist and a choir. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the soloist and a bass clef staff for the choir. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The soloist's part is a melodic line with lyrics underneath. The choir's part is a harmonic accompaniment consisting of several chords. The lyrics are: "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.

All sing the refrain

Priest: You open our eyes to our many blessings, especially that of your own presence, 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

All may extinguish their candles and be seated for the reading of scripture.

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live.

See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of the peoples. Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know will come running to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendour.” Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Reader: A Reading from the Gospel of John.

John 19.28-29

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), ‘I thirst.’ A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection – Fr. 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.

All sing the refrain



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

Act of Faith

Priest: Like Jesus on the cross, we too thirst. In a world of poverty and cruelty, we thirst for justice. In a world of loneliness and isolation, we thirst for community and connection. In a world of stress and constant changes, we thirst for stability and peace. Above all we thirst for love, a love that forgives our failings, strengthens and encourages us, and endures even death. In Jesus we see that love, poured out like water to quench all our thirst. I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord, to come to the cross with me in spirit and in the pouring of water over your hands, let yourselves be refreshed; let your thirst be quenched in the love of and faithfulness of Jesus.

The soloist will sing as the congregation comes forward for the Act of Faith.

Soloist: #35 CP - "WASH O GOD OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS"

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 Blessing of the Light

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.**

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: #354 “COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING”

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious measure sung by flaming tongues above.
O the vast, the boundless treasure of my God’s unchanging love.

Here I make faith’s affirmation; hither by thy help I’ve come;
and I hope, by thy compassion, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
take my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

Priest: Go forth in the name of Christ, who quenches all thirst for justice, for peace
and for love with the waters of his Holy Spirit.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All music is reproduced under CCLI #11166483 and Streaming License # 20191873.

Thank you to all that participated in the service tonight.