

# EVENING PRAYER

AS THE SUN LOWERS IN THE SKY, WE REVIEW OUR DAY AND RENEW OUR COMMITMENT TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH GOD, OUR NEIGHBORS AND OURSELVES.



TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026

## GATHER IN MEDITATIVE MUSIC *Seated*

*We enter a period of intentional prolonged stillness. The stillness begins and ends with the meditative music.*

## REFLECTION

*In this season we are aware of our breath, our hearts, our being. To listen to the beating of our hearts and the rush of our breath is to invite God to fill us, to free us, and to find us in the rhythm of our living.*

I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;  
from my mother's womb you have been my strength;  
my praise shall be always of you. *Psalm 71:6*

## QUESTION

*How did God sustain you today?*

## OPENING *Stand*

Presider O God, make speed to save us.

People O Lord, make haste to help us.

## PRAISE HYMN

## O GRACIOUS LIGHT

*Doxology tune*

O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ, in you the Father's glory shone.  
Immortal, holy, blest is he, and blest are you, his holy Son.

Now sunset comes, but light shines forth, the lamps are lit to pierce the night.  
Praise Father, Son, and Spirit: God who dwells in the eternal light.

Worthy are you of endless praise, O Son of God, Live-giving Lord;  
Wherefore you are through all the earth and in the highest heaven adored.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD *Seated*

### THE FIRST LESSON

Reader                    A reading from the first letter to the Corinthians. 1:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

### PSALM OF THE DAY

### PSALM 71

Reader                    In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be ashamed.

All                        **In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;  
incline your ear to me and save me.**

Reader                    Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;  
you are my crag and my stronghold.

All                        **Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**

Reader For you are my hope, O Lord God,  
my confidence since I was young.

All **I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;  
from my mother's womb you have been my strength;  
my praise shall be always of you.**

## SILENCE

*Intentional silence is kept for two minutes.*

## THE GOSPEL *Stand*

Presider A reading from the Gospel of John.

12:20-36

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say-- 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light."

After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

## MEDITATION MUSIC *Sit*

*We enter a period of meditation in which we allow the Sacred Stories we just heard to settle into our souls so that we may live them in our lives.*

Lord, you now have set your servant free  
to go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A Light to enlighten the nations,  
and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

**AFFIRMATION** *Stand*

Presider Let us together affirm our faith.

People **We believe in God who created all things out of love, who is beyond our imagining and closer to us than breathing.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God with us, who came to this earth to share our lives, who lived, laughed and wept amongst us, and for our sake suffered and died that we might have life; through whom we are made heirs of God.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us, empowering, strengthening and inspiring; through whom we are bound together and by whose grace we act for God in the world.**

**We believe in the one Church built on the redeeming love of God and seeking to serve God through witness and service, a Church which knows no boundaries of colour, caste or class, and which is called to be a force for change through communion with that same God; Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us join together in prayer.

People **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,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS

Reader That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,

People **We beg you, O Lord.**

Reader That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,

People **We beg you, O Lord.**

Reader That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,

People **We beg you, O Lord.**

Reader That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,

People **We beg you, O Lord.**

Reader That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and know the merciful arms of Christ,

People **We beg you, O Lord.**

Reader That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of St. Francis, St. Clare, and all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,

People **We beg you, O Lord.**

## PRAYER

Reader Keep watch, Dear Lord,  
People **with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.**

## A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Presider Let us pray.  
Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting.  
People **Amen.**  
Presider Let us bless the Lord  
People **Thanks be to God.**

## CLOSING INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

*We invite you to stay in meditation during the closing music and into the silence that extends afterwards.*

*Please move conversations outside the sanctuary.*

*A reception in the Community Room follows the service as you are ready.*



## **HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE**

*Stories are central to our humanity. We can't live without them. They knit us together as families, tribes, and nations. Your invitation this Holy Week is to deeply immerse yourself in the stories of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. All week long, Laurie's sermons will focus on these stories which are the core of our faith. Stories that for millennia have helped people bring transcendent meaning to everyday experiences, make meaning out of chaos, and to live fuller, richer lives. Stories that speak to us about power, and love, grief and healing, salvation and redemption.*

### **MONDAY, MARCH 30, TUESDAY, MARCH 31, AND WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1 EVENING PRAYER AT 5:30PM**

*This Evening Prayer is designed to reflect on the day, express gratitude, and prepare for rest. It is a time of quiet reflection, instrumental music and singing. Reception with food and drink to follow each evening.*

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 2 COMMUNITY MEAL AT 6PM**

#### **WORSHIP AT 7PM IN PERSON AND ON YOUTUBE**

*Share a meal with friends as Jesus did. Meal provided by Linda Carter and Chris and Mary Ann Kinder. Service commemorating the new "mandatum" or commandment to "love one another as I have loved you." (John 13:34)*

### **GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3**

#### **WORSHIP AT NOON IN PERSON OR ON YOUTUBE**

#### **WORSHIP AT 5:30PM IN PERSON**

*Commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus with veneration of the cross*

### **GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3**

#### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS 12PM-3PM**

*Church open for personal prayer and walking of the Stations of the Cross*

### **EASTER VIGIL, SATURDAY, APRIL 4**

#### **WORSHIP AT 7:30PM IN PERSON**

*Easter Vigil is a liturgy that begins in darkness and is considered the first celebration of Easter. In it, the congregation lights the Paschal (Easter) candle, hears the salvation story, renews baptismal vows and celebrates the first Eucharist of Easter. Easter Vigil is the heart of our Christian life.*

*Reception to follow.*

### **EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5**

#### **WORSHIP AT 10:30AM IN PERSON AND ON YOUTUBE**

#### **EASTER EGG HUNT AND POTLUCK BRUNCH AT 11:30AM**