

***A Different Kind of Fast –
Feeding Our True Hunger & Thirsts***

LENTEN VESPERS

March 26, 2026

EVENING PRAYER

Behold, now is the acceptable time,

Now is the day of salvation.

Turn us again, O God of our salvation,

That the light of your face may shine on us.

May your justice shine like the sun;

And may the poor be lifted up.

O gracious, good, and loving God, infuse our lives with the mystery of your goodness, so that we are inspired to overcome evil with your loving justice and grace. Help us to be patient and forbearing with those whose hearts are far from you and who seek to cause harm and unrest. Use our righteous anger to fuel acts of kindness and compassion that reveal the transformative power of your love shown to us in your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

PSALMODY

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope;

My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,

More than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is great power to redeem.

It is He who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities. *Psalm 130*

A moment of silence

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Psalm 51:10-12

PRAYERS

O God, it is you alone who can redeem us and who worked salvation for your beloved children through the death and resurrection of your Son. **We seek your forgiveness for wandering away and straying from your paths. Touch our hearts this night and restore us in the morning to follow your Word. Open our ears Lord, to listen for your voice. Call us back once again to the peace and tenderness of being embraced by your loving arms of mercy and forgiveness. We pray this through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

A moment of silence

Mighty and merciful God, **continue to uphold us during our Lenten pilgrimage. May our fasting be a hunger for justice; may our generosity to neighbors be a making of peace; and may our prayers be the songs of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

LENTEN VERSES

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty,

But associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil,

But take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God;

For it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them;

If they are thirsty, give them something to drink;

For by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads."

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. *Romans 12:14-21*

A moment of silence

Hear my prayer, O LORD: give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness;

Answer me in your righteousness.

Do not enter into judgment with your servant,

For no one living is righteous before you.

I stretch out my hands to you;

My soul thirsts for you like a parched land. *Selah*

Answer me quickly, O LORD: my spirit fails.

Do not hide your face from me; or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.

Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for to you I lift up my soul.

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.

Let your good spirit lead me on a level path.

For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life.

In your righteousness bring me out of trouble. *Psalms 143:1-2,6-8,10-11*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

LESSON

A time of silence follows the reading. The leader then continues:

In many and various ways God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

But now in these last days He has spoken to us by his Son.

CONTEMPLATION

We will observe a time of silence for meditation and contemplation.

PRAYERS

Verse – If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete; be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:1-5

O God, who calls us into community to serve you and our neighbors, **may we not neglect the opportunities to share your love and our blessings with those who struggle each day. Show us the ways that you would have us pursue and work towards building up the community of believers through our actions to help restore their dignity and to strive for peace and justice. Lord, receive our prayer.**

Verse – *As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before Him, and asked Him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder: You shall not commit adultery: You shall not steal: You shall not bear false witness: You shall not defraud: Honor your father and mother.’” He said to Him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. Mark 10:17-22*

Most Holy God, we praise you for the abundance of your mercy and blessings that we received today. With grateful hearts, we give you thanks for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to show us the ways that we should live as your faithful children. Lead us and support us each day, as we try to walk in your paths of righteousness and to follow your commandments. Through your steadfast love and compassion, turn us once again to live lives that honor you and serve our neighbors. *Lord, receive our prayer.*

Verse – *Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. Romans 12:9-13*

O God of life, healing, and wholeness, inspire us to persevere in your spirit of generosity and hope in our daily lives. May we care for the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, the prisoner, the forgotten and over-looked. Give us a glimpse of your perfect joy, as we love, serve, grieve, pray, and give of ourselves in the blessed name of your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. *Lord, receive our prayer.*

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us. **Amen**