

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

LENTEN VESPERS

March 12, 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.

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth. For you are merciful, and you love your whole creation, and with all your creatures we give you glory, through your Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen**

PSALMODY

Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer.

From the end of the earth I call to you, when my heart is faint.

Lead me to the rock that is higher than I;

For you are my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.

Let me abide in your tent forever, find refuge under the shelter of your wings.

For you, O God, have heard my vows;

You have given me the heritage of those who fear your name. *Psalms 61:1-5*

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 our provider and protector, **you have not fed us with bread alone, but with your words of grace and truth and life. In your mercy and compassion, bless and sustain us with the good gifts that we receive from your bounty. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through you 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, **sustain us in 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

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;

My flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

So I will bless you as long as I live;

I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
And my mouth praises you with joyful lips
**When I think of you on my bed,
And meditate on you in the watches of the night;**
For you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy,
My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. *Psalm 63:1-8*

A moment of silence

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
And you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
And your labor for that which does not satisfy?
**Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
And delight yourselves in rich food.**
Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. *Isaiah 55:1-3*

A moment of silence

Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.
**Let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;
Let them return to the LORD, that He may have mercy on them,**
And to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.
**For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.**
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are my ways higher than your ways
And my thoughts than your thoughts.
**For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
And do not return there until they have watered the earth,
Making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
It shall not return to me empty,**

But it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
And succeed in the thing for which I sent it. *Isaiah 55:6-11*

**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 – Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.” John 4:13-15

O ever-living God, draw us to you and the waters of eternal life springing up through Jesus Christ. Through your grace, wash over us and cleanse our hearts and souls from the sin that is within us. Accept and forgive our tainted lives. Remove the stigma of shame that would keep us from being in community with you and each other. Lord, receive our prayer.

Verse – Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 4:31-5:2

Almighty and most Holy God, help us to see the people in our lives with appreciation and love. May we treat our relationships with others as treasures and gifts from you, even when they are imperfect and challenging. Give us your grace and mercy, especially when we lack the patience to forgive, as we would want to be forgiven. Move us to greater love of our neighbors and to be a blessing to them. Lord, receive our prayer.

Verse – Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:15-20

O God of steadfast love and faithfulness, grant us the wisdom and strength to live within your life-sustaining love. Help us to see the lives that you call us to live in service to you. May we joyfully always give thanks to you for your abundant blessings. Give us your peace this night, and grant that we may rest securely in your grace. In the morning, gladden our hearts to see the signs of your presence through your generous gifts of sustenance and water. Move us to greater generosity in sharing your gifts with our neighbors. 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**

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