

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.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025

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.

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

QUESTION

What praise do you have for God this evening?

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

All together

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, Life-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 letter to the Hebrews.

12:1-3

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

THE PSALM OF THE DAY

70

The congregation reads together.

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.

Let those who seek my life be ashamed
and altogether dismayed;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune
draw back and be disgraced.

Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back,
because they are ashamed.

Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say for ever,
"Great is the Lord!"

But as for me, I am poor and needy;
come to me speedily, O God.

You are my helper and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not tarry.

SILENCE

Intentional silence is kept for two minutes. The silence is begun and ended with the sound of a bell.

THE GOSPEL *Stand*

Reader A reading from the Gospel of John.

13:21-32

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

At supper with his friends, Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples-- the one whom Jesus loved-- was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once."

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

MEDITATION MUSIC

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.

SONG OF SIMEON *Seated*

Chanted by the Presider

Luke 2:29-32

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

Presider	That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,
People	We beg you, O Lord.
Presider	That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,
People	We beg you, O Lord.
Presider	That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,
People	We beg you, O Lord.
Presider	That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,
People	We beg you, O Lord.
Presider	That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and know the merciful arms of Christ,
People	We beg you, O Lord.
Presider	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

Presider 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 Narthex follows the service as you are ready.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

MONDAY, APRIL 14, TUESDAY, APRIL 15, AND WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

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, featuring instrumental flute and piano. Reception with food and drink to follow each evening.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 17

Community Meal at 6pm. Share a meal with friends as Jesus did. Meal provided by Dave and Denise Denner. Worship at 7pm in person and on YouTube.

Service commemorating the new "mandatum" or commandment to "love one another as I have loved you." (John 13:34)

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18

Worship at noon in person or on YouTube; worship at 7pm in person

Commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus with veneration of the cross

EASTER VIGIL, SATURDAY, APRIL 19

Worship at 7:45pm 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.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20

10:30am Worship in person and on YouTube

11:30am Easter Egg Hunt and Potluck Brunch