

LENTEN EVENING PRAYER: TRANSFORMATIONAL LOVE

11 March 2026



PRELUDE

As the Assembly gathers, individuals light candles to represent their prayers.

GATHERING

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who meets us in darkness and light, searches for us when we are lost, and sends us to love in Jesus' name.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin and our need for grace.

Merciful God, we confess that we lose our way, resist your transforming love, and fail to love our neighbors as ourselves. Turn us again toward you, that we may live in your grace. Amen.

Hear the good news: God does not abandon the lost, but seeks, forgives, and restores. In † Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

EVENING HYMN *Jesus Christ, You are the Light of the World* **Holden**

COLLECT

Let us pray.

Patient and nurturing God, you tend your people with care and initiate growth in your own time. Root us in your love, teach us to grow together in faith and compassion, and shape us into a community that bears fruit for the sake of the world; through Jesus Christ, the true vine. Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAYER *Let My Prayer Rise Up* **Holden**

PSALMODY

Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

PSALM RESPONSE

Magnificat

Holden

SCRIPTURE

Luke 13:6-9

The gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the man working the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.' "

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

READING

Julian of Norwich

A reading from *Revelations of Divine Love* by Julian of Norwich.

Be a gardener,
Dig a ditch,
toil and sweat,
and turn the earth upside down
and seek the deepness
and water the plants in time.
Continue this labor
and make sweet floods to run
and noble and abundant fruits to spring.
Take this food and drink

Continue this labor
and make sweet floods to run
and noble and abundant fruits to spring.
Take this food and drink
and carry it to God
As your true worship.

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION

- *How have you acted as a gardener in your life, nurturing and supporting the growth of others, especially in the face of challenges and barriers?*
- *What are some barriers that might prevent you or someone else from bearing fruit in their life? How can these barriers be addressed or mitigated in collective efforts?*

HYMN OF THE DAY*Healer of Our Every Ill*

ELW 612

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of patience and promise, you tend us with care and call us to grow together. Let us pray.

For the church, that it may be a place of grace where growth is nurtured, failure is met with patience, and new life is trusted to your timing, let us pray.

God of mercy, hold us in love.

For communities marked by division or discouragement, that reconciliation and renewal may take root, even when change feels slow, let us pray.

God of mercy, hold us in love.

For those who labor quietly—caregivers, teachers, volunteers, and workers—that their efforts may bear fruit in due season, let us pray.

God of mercy, hold us in love.

For ourselves, that we may grow in faith, humility, and love, trusting that you are at work beyond what we can see, let us pray.

God of mercy, hold us in love.

For the longings we offer to you now in silence.

(Silence) ...let us pray.

God of mercy, hold us in love.

God who gives the growth, tend our lives with your grace and mercy.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER*Traditional*

Confident in God's mercy, and trusting in the One who teaches us to live in love, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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, forever and ever. Amen.

EVENING PROCLAMATION

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.

SENDING

Go with God, the patient Gardener, who nurtures us, helps us grow,
and calls us to bear fruit in the world.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE