

LENTEN EVENING PRAYER: TRANSFORMATIONAL LOVE

18 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, 2-3

COLLECT

Let us pray.

God of boundless compassion, you seek the lost, welcome the wandering, and rejoice over every child restored. Draw us into your mercy, that knowing ourselves found and loved, we may extend that same grace to others; through Jesus Christ, who came to seek and to save. Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAYER

Let My Prayer Rise Up

Holden, 4-7

PSALMODY

Psalm 107: 1-3, 10-16

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Some sat in darkness and in gloom, prisoners in misery and in irons, for they had rebelled against the words of God and spurned the counsel of the Most High.

Their hearts were bowed down with hard labor; they fell down, with no one to help.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; he brought them out of darkness and gloom, and broke their bonds apart.

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. For he shatters the doors of bronze and cuts in two the bars of iron.

PSALM RESPONSE

Magnificat

Holden, 8-9

SCRIPTURE

Luke 15: 1-7

The gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

READING

Joe Tetlow, SJ

A reading from *Making Choices in Christ: The Foundations of Ignatian Spirituality* by Joe Tetlow, SJ.

Here is the core truth about God as your Creator and Lord:

You are who God wants you to be. God loves you as you are - not as you might be or could be. God loves you because you are who you are, for God is making you who you are. When you know this, you have accepted the most intimate relationship with God that a busy life allows, A relationship that fills all things.

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

Thanks be to God.

MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION

- *To which character in the parable do you relate--the father, the elder son, or the younger son? Has your perspective on this parable changed throughout your life?*
- *What are your spiritual practices when you feel distant from God's love or experience a period of spiritual desolation?*

HYMN OF THE DAY*Our Father, We Have Wandered*

ELW 606

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God who seeks and saves, you do not abandon what is lost. Let us pray with confidence in your mercy.

For the church, that it may reflect your welcoming love, rejoicing not in perfection but in restored relationship, let us pray.

God of mercy, hold us in love.

For all who feel lost—those separated from family, faith, or community—that they may know they are sought, found, and loved, let us pray.

God of mercy, hold us in love.

For those burdened by guilt or shame, that your forgiveness may bring freedom and new beginnings, let us pray.

God of mercy, hold us in love.

For ourselves, that we may receive mercy without fear and extend that same mercy to others, let us pray.

God of mercy, hold us in love.

For prayers we speak now in silence, trusting your love meets us there.

(Silence) ...let us pray.

God of mercy, hold us in love.

God of boundless compassion, restore us and rejoice over us in your love. **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.

BLESSING

Let Us Bless Our God

Holden, 12

SENDING

Go in the love of God, who welcomes all, restores the lost, and makes all things new.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE