

LENTEN EVENING PRAYER: TRANSFORMATIONAL LOVE

25 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 the cross and new life, in Christ you call us to repentance
and send us forth in love. Turn our hearts toward your mercy, shape our lives for humble service, and make
us instruments of your transforming grace in the world you so love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CANTICLE OF PRAYER

Let My Prayer Rise Up

Holden, 4-7

PSALMODY

Psalms 116:1-9

I love the Lord because he has heard my voice and my supplications.
Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.
Then I called on the name of the Lord, "O Lord, I pray, save my life!"

Gracious is the Lord and righteous; our God is merciful. The Lord protects the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.

Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.
I walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

SCRIPTURE*John 12: 20-33*

The gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people[a] to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

READING*The Guest House**Rumi*

A reading from Rumi.

This being human is a guest house. Every morning a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness, some momentary awareness comes as an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all! Even if they're a crowd of sorrows, who violently sweep your house empty of its furniture, still, treat each guest honorably. He may be clearing you out for some new delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the malice, meet them at the door laughing, and invite them in.

Be grateful for whoever comes, because each has been sent as a guide from beyond.

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

REFLECTION*Servants, Repenters, Extenders of Transformational Love**Dave de la Fuente***MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION**

- *Have you ever experienced Jesus looking at you? Recall the moment and reflect carefully on its importance. If you are not certain, consider: has another person's gaze ever impacted me, transformed me, convicted me?*
- *When have you been caught up in the crowd mentality? Where ought you be aware of the faulty nature of crowd thinking today? And how might the example of Peter and Dismas help us live according to transformative love rather than the barometer of the crowd?*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God who sends us in love, you call us not only to repentance but to lives shaped by service and mercy. Let us pray.

For the church, that it may follow Christ in humble service, confessing its failures and embodying your transforming love in the world, let us pray.

God of mercy, hold us in love.

For all who suffer injustice, oppression, or violence, that your love may be made known through acts of courage, repentance, and repair, let us pray.

God of mercy, hold us in love.

For those discerning their vocation or calling, that they may hear Christ's invitation to serve and respond with trust and generosity, let us pray.

God of mercy, hold us in love.

For ourselves, that repentance may lead us to action, and love may shape how we live beyond these walls, let us pray.

God of mercy, hold us in love.

For all that remains on our hearts this night.

(Silence) ...let us pray.

God of mercy, hold us in love.

God of the cross and resurrection, send us out as servants of your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 Christ, who looks upon us with mercy, restores the fallen, and calls us to serve.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE