

LENTEN EVENING PRAYER: TRANSFORMATIONAL LOVE

4 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 truth and mercy, you sent your Son to open the eyes of the blind and turn our hearts toward your way. Illuminate our vision by your Spirit, that we may see ourselves, our neighbors, and your world as you see them, and be transformed by your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAYER *Let My Prayer Rise Up* Holden, 4-7

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handiwork.
Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard.
Yet their line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

In them he has set a tabernacle for the sun,
which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices like a strong man to run his course.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the ends of them; and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold,
yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned; and in keeping them there is great reward.
Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults.

Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me:
then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength
and my redeemer.

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

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

READING*Sacred Fire*

Jan Novotka

A reading from *Melodies of the Universe* by Jan Novotka

Sacred Fire, burning before me; burning within me; deep in my soul!
Sacred Fire, transforming Fire, recreate me. Make me whole.

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

REFLECTION*Refining Light: How Christ Transforms Us*

Nathan Evangelisto

MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION

- *Where in my life am I resisting the cross—wanting Christ’s glory, but not his refining fire?*
- *What might God be gently burning away in me this Lent so that the reflection of the Divine can shine more clearly?*
- *What are some areas of positive transformation that I am noticing in myself and/ or in my community this Lent?*

HYMN OF THE DAY*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

ELW 815

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of Mercy

Holden, 10 (chorus only)

God of truth and mercy, you open our eyes and reshape our hearts. Let us pray for clarity and transformation.

For the church, that Christ's light may reveal both our calling and our blind spots, transforming how we see God, neighbor, and ourselves, let us pray.

God of mercy, hold us in love.

For those whose vision is clouded— by fear, prejudice, exhaustion, or grief— that your healing light may bring clarity and hope, let us pray.

God of mercy, hold us in love.

For teachers, mentors, and guides, that they may help others see with wisdom and compassion, let us pray.

God of mercy, hold us in love.

For ourselves, that we may notice how Christ is changing us, and trust the work you are doing within us, let us pray.

God of mercy, hold us in love.

For all we place before you now in silence. *(Silence)* ...let us pray.

God of mercy, hold us in love.

God who brings light out of darkness, continue your transforming work in us.

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 God's light and love.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE