



Midweek Lenten Service  
March 4, 2026 — 7:00 pm Service  
Order of Worship  
FM Frequency 99.3

Evening Prayer (Vespers)

This is an ancient order of service at the close of the day.

It's themes are light, repentance, and recollection, quiet waiting for the Lord, meditation on the scriptures and intercessory prayer.

Service of Light - *(The procession of light is a dramatic portrayal of creation when God said, "Let there be light" and now a symbol of NEW CREATION, when from the darkness of death God called for His son. Christ is the light of the world.)*

L: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

**C: the light no darkness can overcome.**

L: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

**C: and the day is almost over.**

L: Let your light scatter the darkness,

**C: and illumine your Church.**

L: Joyous light of glory:

**C: of the immortal Father; Heavenly Holy Blessed Jesus Christ. We have come to the setting of the sun, and we look to the evening light. We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever. O Son of God Giver of Life: The universe proclaims your glory.**

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

L: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night: Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation, and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

Psalmody - *(The Psalmody begins with a song for forgiveness and protection.) (A=All, M=Men, W=Women)*

**A: Let my prayer rise before you as incense; the lifting up of my hand as the evening sacrifice.**

M: O Lord, I call to you: come to me quickly: hear my voice when I cry to you.

*W: Let my prayer rise before you as incense; the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.*

M: Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.

*W: Let not my heart incline to any evil thing; let me not be occupied in wickedness with evil doers.*

M: But my eyes are turned to You, Lord God; in You I take refuge. Strip me not of my life.

*W: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

M: as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

**A: Let my prayer rise before you as incense; the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

#### Prayer

L: Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving kindness descend upon us, that with purified minds we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host, and may glorify You forever and ever.

**C: Amen.**

#### 1st Lesson: Lamentations 2:13-14

*"What can I say for you? With what can I compare you, Daughter Jerusalem? To what can I liken you, that I may comfort you, Virgin Daughter Zion? Your wound is as deep as the sea. Who can heal you? The visions of your prophets were false and worthless; they did not expose your sin to ward off your captivity. The prophecies they gave you were false and misleading."*

#### 2nd Lesson: Hebrews 12:7-11

*"Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."*

#### Gospel Lesson: Luke 12:4-7

*"I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him. Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."*

#### Hymn: ***Beneath The Cross Of Jesus***

Beneath the cross of Jesus

I long to take my stand

The shadow of a mighty rock

Within a weary land

A home within a wilderness

A rest upon the way

From the burning of the noontide heat

And burdens of the day

Upon the cross of Jesus  
My eye at times can see  
The very dying form of one  
Who suffered there for me  
And from my contrite heart, with tears  
Two wonders I confess  
The wonder of his glorious love  
And my unworthiness

I take, O cross, your shadow  
For my abiding place  
I ask no other sunshine than  
The sunshine of his face  
Content to let the world go by  
To know now gain nor loss  
My sinful self my only shame  
My glory all, the cross

*"Beneath The Cross Of Jesus" Elizabeth Cecilia Clephane and Frederick Charles Maker Public Domain CCLI License #619995*

Sermon — *"An Inside View"* Pastor Ben Murray

Litany (*Prayers of the Church*)

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**A: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**A: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**A: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**A: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For our pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

**A: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

**A: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For those who work to bring peace, justice, health and the protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

**A: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

**A: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

**A: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

**A: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us give thanks to the Lord.

**A: Alleluia**

L: Help, save, comfort and defend us gracious Lord. (*Silence for meditation*) Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, Our Lord.

**A: To you, O Lord.**

L: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

**A: Amen.**

### Closing Prayer

### Benediction

L: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**A: Amen.**

### Hymn: ***When I Survey The Wondrous Cross***

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the prince of glory died  
My richest gain I count but loss  
And pour contempt on all my pride

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
Save in the death of Christ, my God  
All the vain things that charm me most  
I sacrifice them to his blood

See, from his head, his hands, his feet  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown

Were the whole realm of nature mine  
That were a tribute far too small  
Love so amazing so divine  
Demands my soul, my life, my all

*"When I Survey The Wondrous Cross" Isaac Watts; Lowell Mason ©Public Domain CCLI License #619995*

### Music Benediction: ***Old Rugged Cross***

On a hill far way stood  
An old rugged cross

The emblem of suffering and shame  
And I love that old cross  
Where the dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross  
Till my trophies at last I lay down  
I will cling to the old rugged cross  
And exchange it some day for a crown

*"Old Rugged Cross" George Bennard ©Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain CCLI License #619995*