



Midweek Lenten Service
March 18, 2026 — 6:30 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: laments 4:11-14

"The LORD gave full vent to his wrath; he poured out his hot anger, and he kindled a fire in Zion that consumed its foundations. The kings of the earth did not believe, nor any of the inhabitants of the world, that foe or enemy could enter the gates of Jerusalem. This was for the sins of her prophets and the iniquities of her priests, who shed in the midst of her the blood of the righteous. They wandered, blind, through the streets; they were so defiled with blood that no one was able to touch their garments."

2nd Lesson: Romans 3:10-18

"as it is written: 'None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one. Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive. The venom of asps is under their lips. Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not know. There is no fear of God before their eyes.'"

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 9:12-13

"But when he heard it, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.' "

Hymn: **Rock Of Ages**

Rock of Ages, cleft for me
Let me hide myself in thee
Let the water and the blood
From thy riven side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill thy law's demands
Could my zeal no respite know
Could my tears forever flow

All for sin could not atone
Thou must save, and thou alone

Nothing in my hand I bring
Simply to thy cross I cling
Naked, come to thee for dress
Helpless, look to thee for grace
Foul, I to the fountain fly
Wash me, Savior, or I die

"Rock Of Ages" Thomas Hastings and Augustus Montague Toplady ©Public Domain CCLI License #619995

Sermon — *"An Overall View"* Pastor David Kaiser

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: **Amazing Grace**

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind, but now I see

Tw'as grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come
Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home

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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

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