



Midweek Lenten Service  
April 25, 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: Lamentations 5:19-22

*"You, LORD, reign forever; your throne endures from generation to generation. Why do you always forget us? Why do you forsake us to long? Restore us to yourself, LORD, that we may return; renew our days as of old unless you have utterly rejected us and are angry with us beyond measure."*

#### 2nd Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

*"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works."*

#### Gospel Lesson: John 14:1-7

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going. Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.'"*

#### Hymn: **O Master Let Me Walk With You**

O Master, let me walk with you  
In lowly paths of service true  
Tell me your secret help me bear  
The strain of toil, the fret of care

Help me the slow of heart to move  
By some clear, winning word of love  
Teach me the wayward feet to stay  
And guide them in the homeward way

Teach me your patience; share with me  
A closer, dearer company  
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong  
In trust that triumphs over wrong

*"O Master Let Me Walk With You"* Washington Gladden, H. Percy Smith, and Dale Wood Words: Public Domain and Music: 1995 The Sacred Music Press CCLI License #619995

Sermon — *"Compassion, Not Blame"* Youth Director Aaron Williams

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: ***Were You There***

Were you there when they crucified my Lord  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord  
Ho, sometimes it causes me to tremble  
Tremble, tremble  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble  
Tremble, tremble  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb  
Oh, sometimes It causes me to tremble  
Tremble, tremble  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb

*"Were You There" Frederick J Work and John Wesley Work 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

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