

# LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE

Online Gathering of the Congregations  
of St. Matthew, Manhattan  
and Immanuel, Mt. Vernon.

**Wednesdays @ 7 PM**

Zoom Meeting ID  
**821 423 1875**

## Lententide

- P** Jesus is the Light of the world
- C** **the light no darkness can overcome**
- P** Stay with us Lord, for it is evening
- C** **and the day is almost over**
- P** Let your light scatter the darkness
- C** **and illumine your church**

## Hymn: O Light Whose Splendor

- 1 O Light whose splendor thrills and gladdens  
With radiance brighter than the sun,  
Pure gleam of God's unending glory,  
O Jesus, blest Anointed One;
- 2 As twilight hovers near at sunset,  
And lamps are lit, and children nod,  
In evening hymns we lift our voices  
To Father, Spirit, Son: one God.
- 3 In all life's brilliant timeless moments,  
Let faithful voices sing Your praise,  
O Son of God, our Life-bestower,  
Whose glory lightens endless days.

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**P** 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, O Giver of life: The universe proclaims your glory.**

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, king of the universe, who led  
Your ancient people in the wilderness by a pillar of cloud by day  
and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of  
Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a 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.**

## Psamody: Psalm 141

**C Let my prayer rise before You as incense,  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

**P** O Lord, I call to You; come to me quickly;  
hear my voice when I cry to You.

**C Let my prayer rise before You as incense,  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

**P** Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,  
and guard the door of my lips.  
Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;  
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.  
But my eyes are turned to You, O God;  
in You I take refuge.  
Strip me not of my life.

**C Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Let my prayer rise before You as incense,  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

**P** Let us pray...

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on 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.

**C Amen.**

## HYMN: Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

Jesus, keep me near the cross,  
there's a precious fountain;  
free to all, a healing stream  
flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

### *Refrain*

In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;  
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Near the cross, a trembling soul,  
love and mercy found me;  
there the bright and Morning Star  
sheds its beams around me. *Refrain*

Near the cross! O Lamb of God,  
bring its scenes before me;  
help me walk from day to day  
with its shadows o'er me. *Refrain*

Near the cross I'll watch and wait,  
hoping, trusting ever,  
till I reach the golden strand  
just beyond the river. *Refrain*

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

▪ **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

+ **Psalm 107:1-9** (*read responsively*)

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever!

<sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,  
whom he has redeemed from trouble**

<sup>3</sup>and gathered in from the lands,  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.

<sup>4</sup>**Some wandered in desert wastes,  
finding no way to a city to dwell in;**

<sup>5</sup>hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

<sup>6</sup>**Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,  
and he delivered them from their distress.**

<sup>7</sup>He led them by a straight way  
till they reached a city to dwell in.

<sup>8</sup>**Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,  
for his wondrous works to the children of men!**

<sup>9</sup>For he satisfies the longing soul,  
and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

+ A reading from St. Paul to the Church of the Ephesians.

*Ephesians 2:1-10*

**P** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old  
by the prophets.

**C** But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

**HOMILY**

## **THE GOSPEL CANTICLE – THE MAGNIFICAT**

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.  
My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.

For He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.  
For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.

For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;  
and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.  
My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.

He has shown strength with His arm;  
He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones  
and has exalted the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich He has sent empty away.  
He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy  
as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.  
My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.

## THE LITANY (*response is spoken*)

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mercy

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord. **C Lord, have mercy**

**P** 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.

**G Lord, have mercy**

**P** For all who now gather to offer their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord **C Lord, have mercy**

**P** For all bishops and pastors in Christ, for all servants of the church and for all your people everywhere, let us pray to the Lord. **C Lord, have mercy**

**P** For public servants, for all leaders of government and those who serve us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy**

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

**C Lord, have mercy**

**P** For those who give offerings, those who do good works in our congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all your people who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy**

**P** For favorable weather, for an abundance of fruits of the earth,  
and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord

## **C Lord, have mercy**

**P** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need,  
let us pray to the Lord. **C Lord, have mercy**

**P** For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest,  
let us give thanks to the Lord **C Thanks be to God**

**P** Help, save, comfort and defend us gracious Lord. **C** Amen.

## Silence for meditation

**P** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

**C To you, O Lord.**

**P** 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, God forever. **C Amen.**

**C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

**C 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 and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**P** Let us bless the Lord

**C Thanks be to God**

**P** The Almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, ✠ the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you. **C Amen.**



## HYMN: My Faith Looks Up to Thee

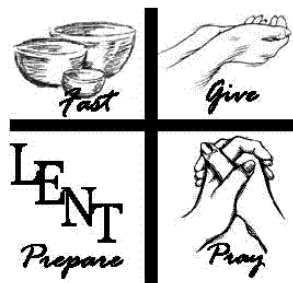
My faith looks up to Thee,  
Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.  
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart  
Strength to my fainting heart; My zeal inspire!  
As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee  
Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread  
And griefs around me spread, Be Thou my guide;  
Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away,  
Nor let me ever stray From Thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream,  
When death's cold, sullen stream Shall o'er me roll,  
Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;  
O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

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**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God