



## Evening Prayer

A Simplified Form

### Lenten Word and Music, March 24th In Community with Christ

#### Opening

Jesus Christ, You are the light of the world, **the light no darkness can overcome.**  
Stay with us, now, for it is evening, **and the day is almost over.**  
Let your light scatter the darkness **and shine within your people here.**

#### **ELW 326 - Bless Now, O God, the Journey**

- 1 *Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make,  
the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.  
The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round,  
then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.*
- 2 *Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way;  
your hope burns through the terrors, your love sustains the day.  
We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound;  
together we are seeking the road where faith is found.*
- 3 *Divine eternal lover, you meet us on the road.  
We wait for land of promise where milk and honey flow,  
but waiting not for places, you meet us all around.  
Our covenant is written on roads, as faith is found.*

#### Prayer

Mysterious One, in Jesus you redeem us and invite all people to a place in your glory.  
Draw us closer to one another, that we may be strengthened to follow in the way of  
Jesus' cross and resurrection. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Scripture (please grab your bible for our reading together)

Mark 10:32-45 — Community with Christ

Reflections on Sarah's Sunday sermon, some context:

*"What is the value of a life, if it isn't independent? Perhaps Jesus is telling us here that so-called independence is in fact overrated.*

*What is that hard shell in you that needs to soften and allow others in?  
What is the hard shell in you that keeps God out or denies support?  
Is there a truth in your life that feels hard, but if you let it, would let more love,  
more people, and more relationship in?"*

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*"In the meantime, as time progresses and gray hairs and wrinkles and back pain and cancer and all the rest come into our lives, these are yet new, and likely unwanted ways we are cracked open. We cannot avoid being cracked open, but do we look for God in the unfolding of what is real for us or do we hustle to coverup, pretend, and deny what's real? We are promised in this one line, new life, abundant fruit by allowing ourselves to be transformed through the loss of our shells.*

*And thank God for that! We can't avoid the cracks. So let us celebrate that God is always there for us in the reality of our situations."*

Sung Response      **ELW 629 - Abide with Me**

- 1 *Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.*
- 2 *Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me.*
- 5 *Hold thou thy cross  
before my closing eyes,  
shine through the gloom,  
and point me to the skies;  
heav'n's morning breaks,  
and earth's vain  
shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord,  
abide with me.*

Prayers    and    Lord's Prayer

Blessing

The Creator who fashions us together with all things,  
the Christ who leads us into a new beloved community,  
the Spirit who holds us in the communion of saints,  
one God, + bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

Sending Song      **ELW 642 - Ubi Caritas et Amor**

*Ubi caritas et amor,  
ubi caritas, Deus ibi est.*

*(Where true charity and love abide,  
God is dwelling there; God is dwelling there)*

Dismissal

Go in peace, joined together in Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**