LENTEN VESPERS

Preparing for Resurrection in a Time of Lament

April 9, 2025 5:00 p.m.

As we turn on lamps at dusk, we greet the evening by welcoming God to abide with us anew.

Hymn: Bless the Lord my soul *(sung three times)*



Words: Psalm 103
Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

Opening

Create in me a clean heart O God:
and renew a right spirit within me. *Psalm 51:10*

Prayer

Holy God, in love you created us and called our being "good." With open hearts, we praise you for your unfailing love. With open hands, we offer you our labors. Bless and guide us now as our day turns toward evening; through your grace, may we share with others the love we receive from you. In the name of God our Creator, Jesus our brother, and the Spirit who lights our way.
Amen.

Reading

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear my cry!
Let your ears be attentive to my plea,
my plea for mercy.

I wait for the Lord with all my soul.
I hope for the fulfillment of God's word.
For in the Lord is love unfailing
and great is the Lord's power to set us free!

(from Psalm 130)

Reflection The Rev. Timothy Ensworth

Music Interlude

Prayers

God of Compassion, we are overwhelmed with news of suffering, war, greed, cruelty. May we learn from you how to share love and hope in these unsettling times. Show us the possibilities of transformation, of resurrection.
O God, hear our prayer.

God of Compassion, help us to trust that your Spirit will fill our hearts each day of this Lenten season with the courage to face our broken and divided world and to bring to the forefront an unwavering call for mercy and justice.
O God, hear our prayer.

God of all Creation, we lament the fragile state of our Mother Earth and our part in the present climate crisis. May your grace lead us to more deeply respect the interdependence of all of creation and choose "to live more simply so that others may simply live".
O God hear our prayer.

Here, the people may add particular intercessions or thanksgivings.

Holy One, You are our refuge.
Your love is everlasting.

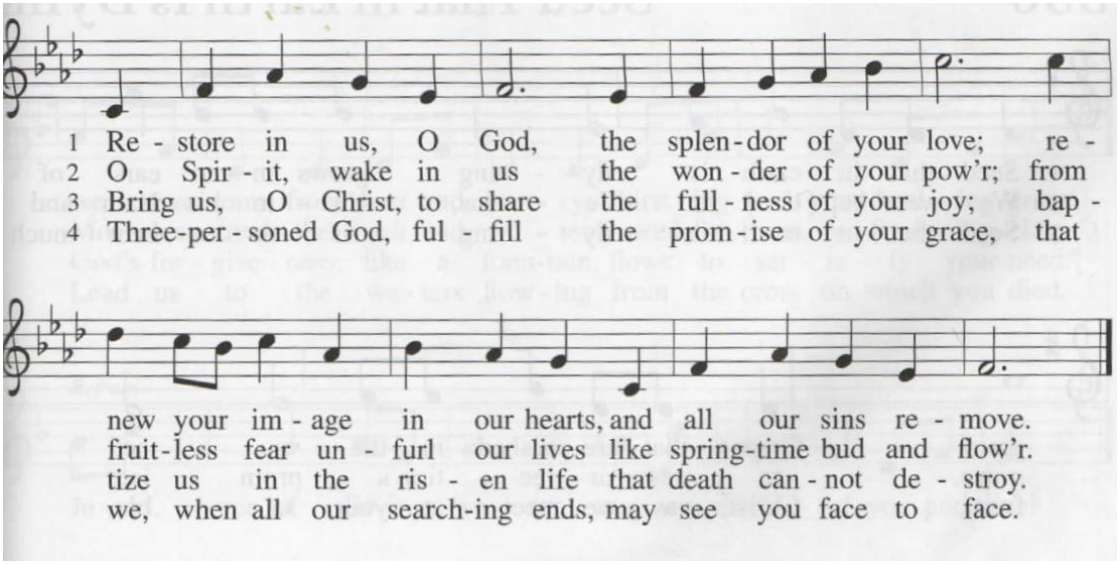
Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer

May the blessing of God whose love embraces
all that we do and are,
whose love endures
all that we don't do and aren't,
be with us as we seek the courage
to offer our wounds to receive the blessing
that you have for each one of us.
This is the love that gave birth to all that
is life, trees, stars, mountains,
ocean, birds and bears. This is the love
that will burn through our darkness
to show us the way to healing and wholeness.
This is the love who creates life out of death.
Grant us peace, in the name of your son,
Jesus the Christ.
Amen. The Rev. Emily Blair Stribling

Hymn: ELW 328 Restore in us, O God



Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
Music: Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

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