

**Evening Prayer
March 8, 2017
St. Martin UCC**

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

His mercy endures for ever.

SCRIPTURE

“Jesus said, “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket, but on a lamp-stand where it gives light for everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your brothers and sisters, so that they may see the good you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

~Matthew 5:14-16

PRAYER FOR LIGHT

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

COLLECT FOR LENT

Almighty and most merciful God, kindle within us the fire of love, that by its cleansing flame we may be purged of all our sins and made worthy to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

“The Lord Is My Light” (Psalm 27:1)

Taize

*The Lord is my light
My light and salvation
In God I trust
In God I trust*

CENTERING PRAYER

O GRACIOUS LIGHT

Phos Hilaron

Performed by Paul Avgerinos

O gracious Light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

BLESSING

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, creator of the changes of day and night, giving rest to the weary, renewing the strength of those who are spent, bestowing upon us occasions of song in the evening. As you have protected us in the day that is past, so be with us in the coming night; keep us from every sin, every evil, and every fear; for you are our light and salvation, and the strength of our life. To you be glory for endless ages.

Amen.

*Jesus, your told us that we should love God with our mind, our heart, our body and our soul. Show us how they can work as one, and how we can love all things not just in our heads, but with our heart, soul and body too. Maybe this is how we can live with you in every eternal now. Teach us how to live in the present, because that might just teach us all we need to know. Amen. ~Richard Rohr, **God For Us***

*Continuous prayer is the fruit of this process of faith. Thoughts, Cassian says, are “transformed into spiritual and angelic likeness”. What does he mean by that? Well I think what he means is that you can still continue to live in the world, you can still go to work, raise your family, you can still watch the news, or a little bit of junk TV, you can still hold your opinions and your beliefs. But these thoughts, and that word covers a multitude of things, these thoughts, or movements of the mind we might say, or contents of our mind, become a little more transparent. They are not prejudices any more, they are not obsessions, they are not compulsions, they are not addictions, they are not things we use to batter other people with, they are not occasions for argument and division. We hold them more lightly in their transparency. ~Laurence Freeman **The Tradition of Meditation***