



**HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH**  
**Polish National Catholic Church**  
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FB: Holy Name of Jesus, South Deerfield, MA

TODAY – JANUARY 28, 2024

SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY – 70 DAYS  
MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP SUNDAY

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist to be  
celebrated in the Contemporary Rite.

10:00 am – Monthly meeting of the Parish  
Committee.



ENTRANCE HYMN  
(Luke 4:27; Psalm 41:5)

V. There were many lepers in Israel during the time of  
Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was  
cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.

R. Once I prayed, “Lord, have mercy on me; heal me,  
I have sinned against You.”

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the  
Holy Spirit,

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

V. Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we come before You  
in obedience to Your Word, in need of healing and  
forgiveness. As You once cleansed the leper in the  
waters of the Jordan, so cure us who have been  
washed in the waters of Baptism. We ask this  
through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who  
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one  
God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.



LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS  
(Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46)

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “If someone has  
on his skin a scab or pustule or blotch which appears  
to be the sore of leprosy, he shall be brought to  
Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests among his  
descendants. If the man is leprous and unclean, the  
priest shall declare him unclean by reason of the  
sore on his head. “The one who bears the sore of  
leprosy shall keep his garments rent and his head  
bare and shall muffle his beard; he shall cry out,  
‘Unclean, unclean!’ As long as the sore is on him, he  
shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact  
unclean. He shall dwell apart, making his abode  
outside the camp.”

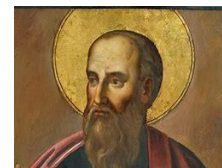
V. This is the word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL  
(Sirach 38:9-11)

V. My son, when you are ill, delay not, but pray to God,  
Who will heal you. Flee wickedness; let your hand  
be just, cleanse your heart of every sin.

R. Offer your sweet-smelling oblation and petition, a  
rich offering according to your means.



A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF  
SAINT PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS  
(1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1)

Brothers and sisters, whether you eat or drink, or  
whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.  
Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks  
or the church of God, just as I try to please everyone  
in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that  
of the many, that they may be saved.  
Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

V. This is the Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

**TRACT**  
**(Matthew 8:2)**

**V. Then a leper approached, did Him homage and said,  
R. “Lord, if You wish, You can make me clean.”**



**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK**  
**(Mark 1:40-45)**

**V. The Lord be with you.  
R. And with you.  
V. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint  
Mark.  
R. Glory be to You, O Lord.**

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged Him and said, “If You wish, You can make me clean.” Moved with pity, He stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, “I do will it. Be made clean.” The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, He dismissed him at once. He said to him, “See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them.” The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to Him from everywhere.

**V. The Gospel of our Lord.  
R. Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH – THE NICENE CREED**

**I believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth  
Of all that is seen and unseen.  
I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
The only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father.  
God from God, Light from Light, True God  
from true God, begotten not made  
Of one being with the Father.  
Through Him all things were made  
For us and for our salvation.  
He came down from heaven:  
By the power of the Holy Spirit  
He was born of the Virgin Mary  
AND BECAME MAN.**

**For our sake, He was crucified under Pontius Pilate  
He suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day He rose again  
In fulfillment of the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and  
Is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
To judge the living and the dead  
And His kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The Lord and Giver of Life  
Who proceeds from the Father,  
With the Father and the Son  
He is worshipped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church  
I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
I look for the resurrection of the dead  
And the + life of the world to come. Amen.**



**OFFERTORY VERSE**  
**(Psalm 107:17,19)**

**V. Some fell sick from their wicked ways, afflicted.  
because of their sins. In their distress they cried to  
the Lord, Who saved them in their peril.**

**PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

**Lord our God, we offer You the sacrifice through  
which Your Son heals us. May we always proclaim His  
glory to all people. We ask this through the same Jesus  
Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.**



**ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

**Let us Pray:** Most loving Jesus, I adore You in the  
Most Blessed Sacrament, in which You are truly  
present. I love You above all things and I long for You  
in my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally,  
I ask You to come spiritually into my heart and heal  
my soul. I embrace You and unite myself with You;  
may I never be separated from You. In flame my heart  
with the fire of Your love, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

## COMMUNION VERSE

(Matthew 11:5)

V. The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

V. Let us pray: Almighty God our Father, may we, nourished by these Sacraments, be filled with compassion and mercy, go forth strengthened to serve the glory of Your name and seek the good of many. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.’



**“Lord, if you want, you can make me clean.”**

Leprosy is a bacterial infection that damages the nervous system, respiratory tract, skin, and eyes of an individual. This disease can result in the loss of a person's extremities as it spreads.

Leprosy, sometimes referred to as the “oldest recorded disease.” was first recorded in Egypt as early as 1350 BC and the term “leprosy” is found 68 times in the Bible—55 times in the Old Testament and 13 times in the New Testament.

Leprosy or Hansen’s disease has plagued and continues to plague many parts of our world: India, China, Africa, Thailand and Brazil. A vaccine for leprosy was first introduced in the 1940’s and has continued to improve through the later years of the 20<sup>th</sup> and continues to improve. Although this disease has lessened over the years, between 2000-3000 Americans are still afflicted each year with leprosy.

Historically, those suffering from leprosy have been shunned, separated and isolated from society and lived in leper colonies. The scene in the movie “Ben Hur” with Charlton Heston, who finds his mother and sister in a leper colony, paints an image of this debilitating disease and isolation.

In today’s first reading from Leviticus, we read: “If the man is leprous and unclean, the priest shall

declare him unclean because of the sore on his head. The one who bears the sore of leprosy shall keep his garments rent and his head bare and shall muffle his beard; he shall cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean!’”

It should also be noted that any skin ailment or sore could make one unclean. How would you feel if you had a blemish on you, due a skin condition, not even leprosy, where you had to wear a special bell and warn anyone who came near you, that you were “unclean?” How sad in the days of Jesus.

We also learn that anyone who had any type of ailment or skin condition, whether it be leprosy, blindness, deafness or being crippled was due to sin and it was God who punished that individual with His wrath and anger. Not only did that individual suffer physically but was also mentally and emotionally scarred and isolated from society.

One of the most powerful passages in the NT, comes from the story of when the disciples of John the Baptist, who is in prison, were sent to Jesus with a simple question: “Are you the one who is to come, or do we wait for another? And what does Jesus say in reply as found in Luke 7:2: “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.” As recorded in the Gospels, many of our Lord’s miracles ended with His words: “Your sins are forgiven.” Jesus came and comes to restore people who are broken, whole. Not only does Jesus heal the lepers but in Matthew and Luke he authorizes His disciples to heal leprosy in His name.

Like leprosy, sin starts out small but then spreads, leading man to other sins and causing great damage in their relationship with God and with others.

We will never know the name of the leper who came to Jesus that day, but I think we can all agree that he was a broken individual, who sought deliverance from his plight. He begged Jesus to cure him, and humbly said: “Lord if you want, you can make me clean.” Although he was rejected by society, he still had faith and believed in Jesus.

I look at the state of our nation and realize that there are leprosy-like conditions that is spreading among society. It is a disease of hatred, anger, arrogance, self-righteousness, racial inequality, social indifference, xenophobia, religious intolerance, which rears its ugly

head in so many ways. If left unchecked, this disease will continue to spread and erode the very fabric of and the core of our great nation and our world.

It has been said that the “greatest sinner is the one least aware of it.” I truly believe that all those who sow discord and promote violence should take a deep look at themselves and examine their consciences. In catechetical teachings we teach that the “conscience” is the “voice of God who tells us what is right and what is wrong.” Can anyone of us, seeing the violence and the negative rhetoric that is happening in our world, say truthfully that they are being led by the Spirit of God and the teachings of our blessed Lord? As we enter this liturgical season of Pre-Lent, I believe that people need to be more like that leper in today’s Gospel, who sought out the Lord, and humbly asked to be cured, restored and made whole. May we all pray for healing, peace and unity for our great nation and for our world.

“And you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.” True freedom comes in the healing power of Christ who offers to all the Way, the Truth, and the Life and who can make a person whole.



### **THE SEASON OF PRE-LENT (SHROVETIDE)**

The season of Pre-Lent, also known as **Shrovetide**, is celebrated in many Christian denominations, from churches in both the Western or Catholic rite to the Eastern or Orthodox Rite along with other Protestant denominations, including the Anglican, Lutheran, and Methodist churches, Shrovetide or Pre-Lent begins a time of preparation which lasts for three weeks. It is a time of personal spiritual reflection and examination which leads to the “Great Lent” which begins with Ash Wednesday, which will begin on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

I think that this time could be compared to preparing for an academic test or exam. But this test and examination is different, for it examines the “inner self,” on whether an individual is ready to truly walk with the Lord Jesus as one of His disciples, through this time and into the “Great Lent.”

In the PNCC, “**Shrovetide**” begins with **Septuagesima Sunday** or seventy days before the Resurrection of our Lord,, and continues through

**Sexagesima Sunday** or (60) days and **Quinquagesima Sunday** or 50 days before the Resurrection. Quinquagesima Sunday is also known as “Shrove Sunday” followed by “Shrove Monday” and “Shrove Tuesday.” also known as the “Mardi Gras” or “Fat Tuesday” which is celebrated in many countries including Italy, Brazil, Canada and the United States. These celebrations are carnival-like gatherings. The next day on Ash Wednesday, the mood changes to a more somber time in which the journey begins for many the 40 days of the season of Lent.

The color that is worn during Pre-Lent is rose. During this time, the Gloria is not proclaimed, except for Solemnities or special feast days, and during this time, the “Alleluia verse” is not said, but is replaced by a “tract” that uses scriptural passages to reflect this special season in preparation of Lent.

In the Orthodox Churches, they will mark the beginning of the pre-Lenten season with the story of the “Publican and the Pharisee,” as found in Luke 18:9-14.

For us, the beginning of Pre-Lent is the story of the leper wishing to be healed and restored. However “Pre-Lent” is celebrated, it speaks of the need to be sincere and humble as the “Great Lent” draws near.



### **FEBRUARY 2 PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

There was a day when our parents took us to the Church to be baptized. It was a day of great joy, shared among family members and friends, and it was also the day that we were presented unto the Lord.

The presentation of Jesus in the Temple was also a day of great joy, similar in ways to our baptism, In the Torah, the Law of Moses, this presentation, was a time when a firstborn son was consecrated to God. It symbolized that He, Jesus, was to be an integral part of God’s chosen people.

Found in the Torah, or Jewish law, one’s first-born son was needed to be at least 31 days old before his presentation, Most Christian denominations celebrate that Jesus was about six weeks old when He was presented by Mary and Joseph in the temple.

This Jewish law finds its origin in the time of Moses when the children of Israel were slaves in Egypt. In the Book of Exodus 4:22-23a, Moses, directed by God, delivered this message to the Pharaoh:

"Thus says the Lord, 'Israel is My son, even My firstborn: and I say unto You, Let My son go, that he may serve Me.'"

In Christian baptisms, families bring their infant sons and daughters, who are dressed in white, a color symbolizing innocence, to the Lord. In their presentation to the Lord, it is through the cleansing waters of baptism and the anointing with Holy oils, that a child, is baptized unto Christ and becomes a member of the Church of Christ. As members of the PNCC, we differ from the Roman Catholic church in its interpretation of "original sin."

As Saint Paul teaches in 1 Cor. 12:13: "For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body, whether we are Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—for we were all given the one Spirit to drink."

The depiction of what happened when Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem, is found in the Gospel of Luke 2:22-39: "When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord.'" We further read in Luke 2:24, that Mary and Joseph offered a sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons" On the same day, according to the Torah, Mary would ritually be purified.

Mary & Joseph, fulfilling the Law, by presenting Jesus was the fulfillment of the prophets who had prophesied His coming; the visions of Simeon, a righteous man of God, and Anna, a prophetess, who both celebrated the coming of the Messiah.

The events of this day did not end with the presentation and purification. We read in Luke 2: 25-32: "Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to

Him, he took Him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for Your people Israel." His declaration has been called the "Canticle of Simeon." Simeon would go on to bless them and have a special message to Mary: "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." It is believed by some that this scripture passage foretells that Mary's heart would be pierced with agony as she witnessed the crucifixion of her son, Jesus.

The final portion of Scripture on this most special day, is found in the description of Anna, a prophetess. In Luke 2:36-38, we read: "There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem."

## **CANDLEMAS**

Inspired by the words of the Canticle of Simeon ("a light to the revelation of the Gentiles"), it should be noted that by the 11th century, a custom had developed in the Western rite of the Church of blessing candles on the Feast of the Presentation. In this custom, candles were lit, and a procession took place through the darkened church while the Canticle of Simeon was sung. Because of this, the feast also became known as Candlemas. While the procession is not often performed in the United States today, Candlemas is still an important feast in many European countries.

## **SACRAMENTALS - CANDLES**

Candles have always been associated with worship. In Christianity, whenever candles are lit, they represent light overcoming darkness, and Christ as the "Light of the World." In Christian churches, candles are placed on all altars and are lit in devotion.

During our Liturgical Year, various candles are used. Among them are the Baptismal candle, the four

candles of the Advent wreath, along with the Christ candle, which is lit on Christmas Eve, and the candles that are blessed on February 2nd. On Holy Saturday, the “Paschal candle of Christ” is blessed, along with five grains of incense, representing the “five wounds” of Christ, and is present in many of the sanctuaries of Churches year-round. Finally, the “Eternal Light” which shines in the main sanctuary, represents the “real and mystical presence” of Christ, as found in the form of consecrated bread which reposes in our tabernacle.



**FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>**

**SAINT BLAISE – BISHOP & MARTYR  
PATRON SAINT OF THROAT AILMENTS  
(?- 316 AD)**

Saint Blaise was the bishop in Armenia during the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. Very little is known about his life. According to various accounts, he was a physician before becoming a bishop. According to tradition, he was reputed to have miraculously cured a little boy who nearly died because of a fishbone in his throat. From the 8<sup>th</sup> century, he has been invoked on behalf of the sick, especially those afflicted with illnesses of the throat. According to tradition, he was martyred by being beaten, attacked with iron combs, which were used on shearing sheep and finally beheaded. In the Churches of the Western Rite, his feast falls on the 3rd of February, wherein in the Eastern rite, his feast day is celebrated on 11<sup>th</sup> of February. It should also be noted that Saint Blaise is also remember and revered in the Anglican, Lutheran and many other Protestant denominations. On this day, the blessing of throats of the faithful with blessed candles follows Holy Mass.



**OUR PARISH CALENDAR**

**DAILY HOLY MASS**

8:45 am Morning Devotionals  
9:00 am Holy Mass of the Eucharist



**MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP SUNDAY**

Today is Music Scholarship Sunday and a special collection will be taken following Holy Mass. In our Church, this Sunday is set aside to assist organists, music directors and musicians in furthering their education. It should be noted that over the past years, the National United Choirs have awarded over 1100 members of the PNCC with over \$300,000 in stipends.

**THIS WEEK’S MASS SCHEDULE**

(January 29 – February 3<sup>rd</sup>)

- Mon. 1/29     **Private prayer and meditation**  
Francis de Sales, Bishop  
Gildas the Wise, Abbot  
Suplicius, Bishop
- Tue. 1/30     **Mass for health and healing.**  
Martina of Rome, Virgin and Martyr  
Barsimaeus of Eddesa, Bishop  
Bathidis, Widow
- Wed. 1/31     **Mass to the Holy Saints of God.**  
Cyrus & John, Martyrs  
Marcella, Widow  
Aidan of Ferns, Bishop
- Thurs. 2/1     **Mass to the Holy Angels of God**  
Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr  
Pionius, Priest & Martyr  
Brigid, Abbess
- Fri. 2/2     **Solemnity – Presentation of the Lord  
Blessing of Candles**  
Martyrs of Ebsdorf, Martyrs  
Adabald of Ostrevant, Martyr
- Sat. 2/3     **Mass to the Holy Name of Jesus.  
Blessing of Throats**  
Blaise of Sebastea, Bishop & Martyr  
Laurence of Canterbury, Bishop  
Anskar of Hamburg, Bishop

**NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024**  
**SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY**  
**SCOUT SUNDAY**

9:00 am Holy Mass of the Eucharist to be celebrated in the Traditional Rite.

Special prayers are offered today for all who are a part of scouting.



**ED MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAYS AT NOON – CALL TO PRAYER**

“Your lamp is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path.” - Psalm 119:105

In the month of February, the Eastern Diocesan Mission and Evangelism Commission of the PNCC, calls upon its members and others to offer the following prayers:

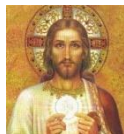
**A PRAYER FOR PARISH FAMILIES**

My Lord and my God, hear my prayers for the well being of my parish family. Grant us Your grace and all that is necessary for the spiritual growth and welfare of our congregation. Enlighten and guide my pastor and all who minister to the needs of Your people. Strengthen and awaken in us a living faith; comfort and heal the sick, lonely, and brokenhearted, soften those who are contentious or stubborn; awaken the indifferent, and rescue the fallen. Lord, help us to continue to proclaim Your truth. Unite us with Christ in like-mindedness of purpose. I ask this through Jesus Christ. Amen. *(from the PNCC Book of Devotions)*

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**OUR FATHER** who art in Heaven, hallowed by 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 of our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

**OTHER PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**ONE BREAD, ONE BODY**

**Daily Devotions**

New copies of the “**One Bread, One Body**” a daily devotional booklet, is now available, free of charge, found in the vestibule of our Church. These booklets provide daily devotions, which are in tune with the readings as found in the “Common Lectionary” of the Christian Church,



**Our Food Ministry: “Feeding the Hungry”**

Our next scheduled grocery give-away will take place on **Saturday, February 17th** from 10:00 am while supplies last.

I want to also thank all who have and continue to give non-perishable food items as well as monetary donations to aid our food ministry. We continue to ask for assistance of non-perishable food items, as well as monetary donations. All donations will be greatly appreciated. May God bless all our endeavors.

**ITEMS NEEDED FOR OUR FOOD PANTRY**

Among the items that we are asking for:

- Cold cereals and packets of instant oatmeal.
- Fruit juices, - V8, Apple and cranberry
- powder milk / condensed milk.
- Hot chocolate and tea bags.
- Pasta and spaghetti sauce
- Boxes of Mac-n-cheese
- Tuna in water
- Canned meats- chicken salmon, etc.
- Ramen noodles
- Soups- all varieties
- canned veggies and fruits.

We are constantly looking at how we can improve this ministry and we invite your input and suggestions.



**PIEROGI NEWS**

I received an email from Linda, who gave the schedule for making pierogi for our Palm Sunday Food & Bake sale. The following are the dates mentioned:

Sat. 3/2 –	<b>Potato &amp; Cheese</b> - (single batch).
	<b>Cheese</b> – (single batch).
Thurs. 2/29 –	Preparing ingredients.
Fri. 3/1 -	Preparing balls.

Sat. 3/9 -	<b>Cabbage</b> - (Single batch).
Thurs. 3/7 -	Prep ingredients.
Fri. 3/8 -	Preparing balls.

**Note:** Please see Linda if you can help. Buddy will need a couple of people to help prepare the cabbage.



## **A MORNING DEVOTIONAL**

**LORD**, come to my assistance. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

### OPENING HYMN

On this day, the first of days,  
God the Father's name I praise;  
Who, creation's Lord and spring,  
Did the world from darkness bring?

On this day the eternal Son,  
Over death His triumph won,  
On this day the Spirit came,  
With the gifts of living flame.

God, most blessed, Three in One,  
May Your holy will be done:  
In Your word my soul is free.  
And I rest this day with Thee.

### A DEVOTIONAL READING

(Revelation 7:9 -12)

“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!” And all the angels stood round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.

**(Time for silence and personal prayer)**

### CLOSING PRAYER

**LORD GOD**, I praise You with my lips, and with my life and heart. My very existence is a gift from You; to You I offer all that I have and ever will be. Be with me this day and may I be guided by Your Holy Spirit to help and assist others in need and be faithful as a member of the “Body of Christ.” All of this I pray in the name of Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



## **AN EVENING DEVOTIONAL**

**LORD**, come to my assistance. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

### OPENING HYMN

Lord Jesus, You are the light and day  
Which drives away the night.  
The ever-shining Son of God  
And pledge of future light.

And now the ev'ning shadows fall  
Please grant unto me, O Lord, I pray,  
A quiet night to rest in You, I  
Until the break of day.

Remember me, O Lord. who comes to You  
In humility and pray,  
That Your presence be ever in my soul  
Each and every day.

### A DEVOTIONAL READING

(I John 2:24-29)

**BELOVED:** Let what you heard from the beginning remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, then you will remain in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that He made unto us: eternal life. I am writing you these things about those who would deceive you. As for you, the anointing that you received from Him remains in you, so that you do not need anyone to teach you. But His anointing teaches you about everything and is true and not false; just as it taught you, remain in Him.

**(Time for silence and personal prayer)**

### CLOSING PRAYER

**HEAVENLY FATHER**, At the close of this day, I come to You, the eternal light that never fades. Shine in the darkness of this night and send forth Your blessings on all those who are dear to me. Forever will I praise and glorify Your most Holy Name, for You have made me in Your own image and likeness out of love and breathed in me Your most precious gift of life. All of this I offer to You, in humble prayer, in the name of Your only begotten Son, Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.