

## **LENTEN VESPERS EACH WEDNESDAY OF LENT 6:00 PM**

**O**ur day is framed by the rising and the setting of the sun. Sunrise and sunset, in many ways, define our life and mark our years. At sunset the “days allotted span draws to a close.” Through the ages Christians have known that moment as prayer, looking beyond the darkness to the Light of the risen One, whom no darkness can overcome.

Vespers gives shape to our praise and thanks to God marking the allotted span of our days.

Evening prayer is a time to remember to see in the darkness of our world, or even our life, the light of the world, Jesus Christ.

Prayer together at days end is a sacrifice of praise for the life we have and the life we can share.

Prayer at sunset is a time to “hand over the burdens of the day” praying for pardon, peace and protection, trusting in the mercy of God and the gift of forgiveness. “Let our prayers rise like incense,” we sing, “and our hands like an evening offering.” So we offer incense, a sign of the burdens we bring, consumed by the love of a merciful God surrounding us with the sweet odor of healing love. We offer our open hands to serve, embrace, hold and give.

This prayer in the closing hours of the day is a gathering of faithful believers, singing the Psalms, the prayers of Jesus; listening to God’s word, singing together the great Gospel Canticle of Mary, Mother of the Lord; praying for the world; and giving voice again to The Lord’s Prayer.

Bearing the burdens and struggles of these time, these days of our Lenten journey to the Great Three Days beckon us, with the whole Church, to end the day with thanksgiving, repentance, persistent prayer for the many, a hopeful song, a new way of seeing in the darkness, and a “sacrifice of praise.”

Gathering for Evening prayer once a week during Lent gives a space and a time to remember, to focus, to hope and to set aside all the burdens that fall upon us these Forty Days.

**Make Wednesday Lenten Evening Prayer a time to step aside,  
to offer an evening sacrifice of praise,  
to be quiet, to sing, to be grateful,  
to hear, speak and to remember.**



**Soup and Bread Supper follows Vespers.**

**Remember: SIGN UP to bring soup!**