



LENTEN WORSHIP – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18
THE 4th COMMANDMENT: “Honor your father and your mother”

ORDER OF SERVICE
Holden Village Evening Prayer

Prelude: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” Runyan/Gervais

Service of Light and Evening Hymn p. 2 - 3

Candles will be lit before the worship begins. Please follow the instructions of the liturgist.

Evening Thanksgiving p. 4

Psalmody p. 4

The liturgist is Group One and the congregation is Group Two.

THE WORD

The song is played through once before the congregation sings it.

Song of the Word: “Will the Circle be Unbroken” PD

**Vs. 1: There are loved ones in the glory
Whose dear forms you often miss,
When you close your earthly story
Will you join them in their bliss?**

**Refrain: Will the circle be unbroken
By and by, Lord, by and by?**

**In a better home awaiting
In the sky, Lord, in the sky?**

**Vs. 2: In the joyous days of childhood,
Oft they told of wondrous love,
Pointed to the dying Savior,
Now they dwell with Him above. Refrain...**

Scripture Reading: Ruth 1:8-19

After a short while on the road, Naomi told her two daughters-in-law, “Go back. Go home and live with your mothers. And may GOD treat you as graciously as you treated your deceased husbands and me. May GOD give each of you a new home and a new husband!” She kissed them and they cried openly.¹⁰ They said, “No, we’re going on with you to your people.”¹¹⁻¹³ But Naomi was firm: “Go back, my dear daughters. Why would you come with me? Do you suppose I still have sons in my womb who can become your future husbands? Go back, dear daughters—on your way, please! I’m too old to get a husband. Why, even if I said, ‘There’s still hope!’ and this very night got a man and had sons, can you imagine being satisfied to wait until they were grown? Would you wait that long to get married again? No, dear daughters; this is a bitter pill for me to swallow—more bitter for me than for you. GOD has dealt me a hard blow.”¹⁴ Again they cried openly. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye; but Ruth embraced her and held on.

¹⁵ Naomi said, “Look, your sister-in-law is going back home to live with her own people and gods; go with her.”¹⁶⁻¹⁷ But Ruth said, “Don’t force me to leave you; don’t make me go home. Where you go, I go; and where you live, I’ll live. Your people are my people, your God is my god; where you die, I’ll die, and that’s where I’ll be buried, so help me GOD—not even death itself is going to come between us!”¹⁸⁻¹⁹ When Naomi saw that Ruth had her heart set on going with her, she gave in. And so the two of them traveled on together to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem the whole town was soon buzzing: “Is this really our Naomi? And after all this time!”

Song of the Word: “Will the Circle be Unbroken” PD

**Vs. 3: You remember songs of heaven
Which you sang with childish voice,
Do you love the hymns they taught you,**

Or are songs of earth your choice?

**Refrain: Will the circle be unbroken
By and by, Lord, by and by?
In a better home awaiting
In the sky, Lord, in the sky?**

**Vs. 4: You can picture happy gatherings
Round the fireside long ago,
And you think of tearful partings,
When they left you here below. Refrain...**

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 6:20-23 and Proverbs 23:22-25

Good friend, follow your father's good advice; don't wander off from your mother's teachings. Wrap yourself in them from head to foot; wear them like a scarf around your neck. Wherever you walk, they'll guide you; whenever you rest, they'll guard you; when you wake up, they'll tell you what's next. For sound advice is a beacon, good teaching is a light, moral discipline is a life path.

Listen with respect to the father who raised you, and when your mother grows old, don't neglect her. Buy truth—don't sell it for love or money; buy wisdom, buy education, buy insight. Parents rejoice when their children turn out well; wise children become proud parents. So make your father happy! Make your mother proud!

Song of the Word: : "Will the Circle be Unbroken" PD

**Vs. 5: One by one their seats are empty,
One by one they went away,
Now the family is parted,
Will it be complete one day?**

**Refrain: Will the circle be unbroken
By and by, Lord, by and by?
In a better home awaiting
In the sky, Lord, in the sky?**

Scripture Reading: Psalm 127

L: If GOD doesn't build the house, the builders only build shacks.

All: If GOD doesn't guard the city, the night watchman might as well nap.

L: It's useless to rise early and go to bed late, and work your worried fingers to the bone.

All: Don't you know he enjoys giving rest to those he loves?

L: Don't you see that children are GOD's best gift?

All: the fruit of the womb his generous legacy?

L: Like a warrior's fistful of arrows are the children of a vigorous youth.

All: Oh, how blessed are you parents, with your quivers full of children!

L: Your enemies don't stand a chance against you;

All: you'll sweep them right off your doorstep.

Gospel Song: "Faith of Our Fathers and Mothers" ELW #812

**Vs. 1: Faith of our fathers! We will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife:
And proclaim thee too, as love knows how,
By kindly words and virtuous life:
Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death.**

**Vs. 2: Faith of our mothers, lavish faith,
The fountain of childhood's trust and grace,
O may they consecration prove
The wellspring of a nobler race:
Faith of our mothers, lavish faith,
We will be true to thee till death.**

Scripture Reading: Luke 15:11-32

Then he said, "There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, 'Father, I want right now what's coming to me.'¹²⁻¹⁶ "So the father divided the property between them. It wasn't long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to feel it. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corn-cobs in the pig slop, but

no one would give him any.¹⁷⁻²⁰ “That brought him to his senses. He said, ‘All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I’m going back to my father. I’ll say to him, Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.’ He got right up and went home to his father.²⁰⁻²¹ “When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech: ‘Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son ever again.’²²⁻²⁴ “But the father wasn’t listening. He was calling to the servants, ‘Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a prize-winning heifer and roast it. We’re going to feast! We’re going to have a wonderful time! My son is here—given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!’ And they began to have a wonderful time.²⁵⁻²⁷ “All this time his older son was out in the field. When the day’s work was done he came in. As he approached the house, he heard the music and dancing. Calling over one of the houseboys, he asked what was going on. He told him, ‘Your brother came home. Your father has ordered a feast—barbecued beef!—because he has him home safe and sound.’²⁸⁻³⁰ “The older brother stomped off in an angry sulk and refused to join in. His father came out and tried to talk to him, but he wouldn’t listen. The son said, ‘Look how many years I’ve stayed here serving you, never giving you one moment of grief, but have you ever thrown a party for me and my friends? Then this son of yours who has thrown away your money on whores shows up and you go all out with a feast!’³¹⁻³² “His father said, ‘Son, you don’t understand. You’re with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was dead, and he’s alive! He was lost, and he’s found!’”

Homily: “Honor your father and your mother.”

Song of the Word: “Precious Memories” PD

**Vs. 1: Precious memories, unseen angels,
Sent from somewhere to my soul;
How they linger, ever near me,
And the sacred past unfolds.**

**Refrain: Precious memories, how they linger,
How they ever flood my soul;
In the stillness of the midnight,
Precious, sacred scenes unfold.**

**Vs. 2: Precious father, loving mother,
Fly across the lonely years;
And old home scenes of my childhood,
In fond memory appears. Refrain....**

**Vs. 3: As I travel on life's pathway,
Know not what the years may hold;
As I ponder, hope grows fonder,
Precious mem'ries flood my soul. Refrain...**

HOLDEN VILLAGE EVENING PRAYER

Litany and Prayers p. 10

Final Blessing p. 12

Postlude: "Love at Home" McNaughton/Tonioli