



# EVENING PRAYER

VESPERS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2020

**P** Pastor   **B** Bishop   **A** Assisting Minister   **C** All

## DIALOG

**P** Behold, now is the acceptable time;  
**C** now is the day of salvation.

**P** Turn us again, O God of our salvation,  
**C** that the brightness of your face may shine on us.

**P** May your justice shine like the sun;  
**C** and may the poor be lifted up.

## HYMN OF LIGHT

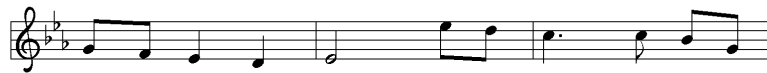
### Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory



1 Joy - ous light of heav'n-ly glo - ry, lov-ing glow of God's own  
2 In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing sun of  
3 You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev-'ry danc - ing star of



face, you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on  
dawn, in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can  
night, make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us



ev - 'ry land and race. Now as eve - ning falls a -  
hear your qui - et song. Love that fills the night with  
each re - flect your light. Might - y God of all cre -



round us, we shall raise our songs to you. God of day - break,  
won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul, love that bursts all  
a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way, lov - ing Spir - it



God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.  
chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.  
of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent., para. Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen  
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## THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

☞ The Lord be with you.

☛ **And also with you.**

☞ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☛ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

☞ We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning you called light into being,  
and you set light in the sky  
to govern night and day.  
In a pillar of cloud by day  
and a pillar of fire by night  
you led your people into freedom.  
Enlighten our night by the brightness of Christ:  
may your Word be a lamp to our feet  
and a light to our path;  
for you are merciful,  
and you love your whole creation,  
and with all your creatures we give you glory,  
through your Son Jesus Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever.

☛ **Amen.**

## PSALMODY

### *Psalm 121*

☞ I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?

☛ **My help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

☞ The Lord will not let your foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

**☞ Behold, the keeper of Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

**☞** The Lord watches over you;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

**☞ the sun will not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

**☞** The Lord will preserve you from all evil  
and will keep your life.

**☞ The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth forevermore.**

**☞** Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit;

**☞ as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be forever. Amen.**

**☞** Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, you help us in times of distress and watch over us day and night. Hold us securely in your mercy, that in the midst of fear and anxiety we may depend on you, our sure deliverer; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**☞ Amen.**

## READING

*Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16*

**☞** A Reading from Genesis:

**☞** When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I

have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

ⓑ Word of God, Word of Life.

ⓐ Thanks be to God.

## HOMILY

## RESPONSORY

ⓑ Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,

ⓐ but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.

## HYMN

### My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;  
 2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un-chang-ing grace;  
 3 His oath, his cov-e-nant, his blood sus-tain me in the rag-ing flood;  
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name.  
 in ev-'ry high and storm-y gale my an-chor holds with-in the veil.  
 when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
 clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re-deemed to stand be-fore the throne!

*Refrain*



On Christ, the sol-id rock, I stand; all oth-er ground is



sink-ing sand, all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

## LITANY & PRAYERS

**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**G** Lord, have mercy.

**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**G** Lord, have mercy.

**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**G** Lord, have mercy.

**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**G** Lord, have mercy.

**A** For the health of the creation, for abundant harvests that all may share,  
and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

**G** Lord, have mercy.

**A** For public servants, the government, and those who protect us;  
for those who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection  
in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

**G** Lord, have mercy.

**A** For those who travel, for those who are sick and suffering,  
and for those who are in captivity, let us pray to the Lord.

**G** Lord, have mercy.

**A** For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**G** Lord, have mercy.

**A** For Elizabeth and William our bishops, for all pastors and deacons, and  
all servants of the church, for all those who gather from across our  
synod and church, and for all people who await from the Lord great  
and abundant mercy,

let us pray to the Lord.

**☩ Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For the concerns that are lifted up now, across this church, and share aloud, in silence or on social media using the hashtag #demdprays, let us pray to the Lord.

**☩ Lord, have mercy.**

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**A** Giving thanks for all who have gone before us and are at rest, rejoicing in the communion of all the saints, we commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to you, through Christ our Lord.

**☩ To you, O Lord.**

**A** O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**☩ Amen.**

**A** Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.

**☩ Amen.**

**A** We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected us today. We ask you to forgive us all our sins, where we have done wrong, and graciously to protect us tonight. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us.

**☩ Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Ⓐ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

☩ **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be 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 our trespasses,  
as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## BLESSING

Ⓐ Let us bless the Lord.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

Ⓐ The peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
keep our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.

☩ **Amen.**

# HYMN

## Abide with Me



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness;  
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.  
O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.  
I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!  
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847  
Music: EVENTIDE, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

## WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher

The Rev. Bill Gohl, Bishop  
Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA

Pastor

The Rev. Amsalu Geleta, Executive Assistant to the Bishop and Director  
for Evangelical Mission  
Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA

Cantor/Assisting Minister The Rev. Lauren Muratore, Pastor & Priest-in-Charge  
Salem Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD  
Church of the Redemption, Baltimore, MD

Video Producers

The Rev. Jason Chesnut, Chief Creative Officer  
ANKOSfilms  
Deacon Julie Stecker, Assistant to the Bishop for Communications,  
Youth + Family Ministry  
Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA

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