



EVENING PRAYER

VESPERS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020

Ⓐ Bishop Ⓐ Preacher Ⓐ All

WORDS OF WELCOME

DIALOG

Ⓐ Behold, now is the acceptable time;

Ⓐ **now is the day of salvation.**

Ⓐ Turn us again, O God of our salvation,

Ⓐ **that the brightness of your face may shine on us.**

Ⓐ May your justice shine like the sun;

Ⓐ **and may the poor be lifted up.**

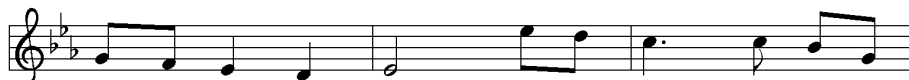
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1 Joy - ous light of heav'n-ly glo - ry, lov-ing glow of God's own
 2 In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing sun of
 3 You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev-'ry danc - ing star of



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

B The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

B Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

B 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 27, selected

☩ The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

**☩ The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?**

☩ One thing I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:

**☩ to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in his temple.**

☩ For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;

**☩ he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.**

☩ Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,

**☩ and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

☩ Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!

☞ **“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”**
Your face, Lord, do I seek.

☞ I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.

☞ **Wait for the Lord;**
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!

☞ 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. Lord God, our salvation and home, grant that your servants
who seek your face in times of trouble may see your goodness, and
that we may be set safely on the rock of our faith, Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord.

☞ **Amen.**

READING *John 3:1-17*

☞ A Reading from the Gospel of St. John:

☞ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these

things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

☐ 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.**

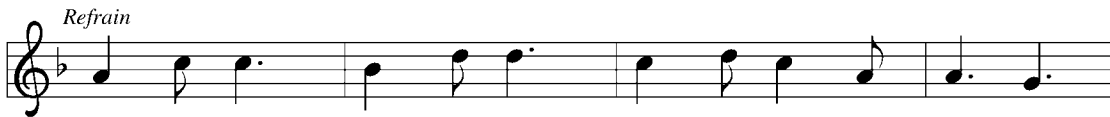
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1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
 Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

LITANY & PRAYERS

☒ In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

☑ Lord, have mercy.

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

☑ Lord, have mercy.

☒ 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.

☑ Lord, have mercy.

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

☑ Lord, have mercy.

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

☑ **Lord, have mercy.**

☒ 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.

☑ **Lord, have mercy.**

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

☑ **Lord, have mercy.**

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

☑ **Lord, have mercy.**

☒ 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.**

☒ 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.**

☒ Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

☒ Giving thanks for Mary, the mother of Jesus and 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.**

ⓑ 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.

ⓑ 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.

ⓑ 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

The Annunciation & Magnificat from Holden Evening Prayer

Leader: An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."

All:

1., 3. My — soul pro - claims your
2. You have cast the might - y

great - ness, O God, and my spir - it re - joic - es in
down from their thrones, and up - lift - ed the hum - ble of

you, You have looked with love on your
heart, You have filled the hun - gry with

fine last time

ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,

strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,

How you fa - vor the weak — and low - ly one,
As you prom - ised to Sar - ah and A - bra - ham,

hum - bling the proud of heart.
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Presider & Musician	The Rev. Bill Gohl, Bishop Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA
Preacher	Deborah Tadesse, Overall Leader Among Leaders Lutheran Youth Organization Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA
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