



## Wednesday Lenten Services Vespers (Evening Prayer)

*Please stand as you are able.  
The congregation sings or speaks the words in bold font, as indicated,  
throughout the service.*

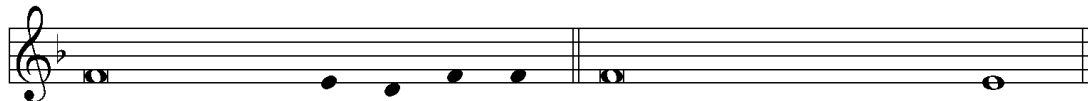
### SERVICE OF LIGHT



☐ Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, ☑ **the light no darkness can over- come.**



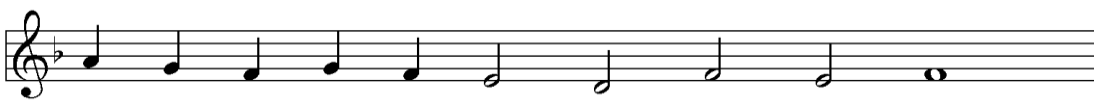
☐ Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve-ning, ☑ **and the day is almost o- ver.**



☐ Let your light scat- ter the dark-ness, ☑ **and illumine your Church.**



☐ Joy-ous light of glo - ry: ☑ **of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther;**



**heav - en - ly, ho - ly, bless - ed Je - sus Christ.**



**We have come to the set- ting of the sun, and we look to the eve- ning light.**



**We sing to God, the Fa- ther, Son, and Ho- ly Spir - it: You are wor- thy of**



**be - ing praised with pure voic - es for - ev - er. O Son of God,**



**O Giv - er of life: The u - ni - verse pro - claims your glo - ry.**

The Lord be with you. **☩** And al - so with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **☩** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led your people

Israel by a pil - lar of cloud by day and a pil - lar of fire by night:

Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ; may his Word be a lamp

to our feet and a light to our path; for you are mer - ci - ful,

and you love your whole cre - a - tion, and we, your crea - tures, glo - ri - fy you,

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it. **☩** A - men

*Please be seated.*

# PSALMODY

☐ Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;

the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

☐ O Lord, I call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I cry to you.

☐ Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;

the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

☐ Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.

☐ Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing; let me not be oc - cu -

pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers. ☐ But my eyes are

turned to you, Lord God; in you I take ref - uge. Strip me not of my life.

☐ Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;

☐ as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

☐ Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;

the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before you, O Lord, and let your lovingkindness descend upon us, that with purified minds we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host, and may glorify you forever and ever.

*A Scripture lesson is read.  
Silence for meditation follows the reading.*

In many and various ways God spoke to his people of old by the prophets.  
**But now in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

### GOSPEL CANTICLE

My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir- it re-joic- es in  
God my Sav-ior, for he has looked with fa- vor on his low- ly ser- vant.  
From this day all gen- er - a - tions will call me bless- ed.  
The Al- might- y has done great things for me, and ho- ly is his name.  
He has mer- cy on those who fear him in ev- 'ry gen- er - a - tion.  
He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat- tered the  
proud in their con- ceit. He has cast down the might- y from their thrones,  
and has lift - ed up the low - ly. He has filled the  
hun- gry with good things, and the rich he has sent a - way emp - ty.

He has come to the help of his ser- vant Is - ra - el,  
 for he has re- mem- bered his prom- ise of mer- cy, the prom- ise he  
 made to our fa- thers, to A- bra- ham and his chil- dren for- ev- er.  
 Glo- ry to the Fa- ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho- ly Spir - it;  
 as it was in the be - gin- ning, is now, and will be for- ev- er. A - men

*We observe a brief silence to prepare our hearts for prayer.*

**THE LITANY**

**℣** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
**℟** Lord, have mer - cy.

*Each petition is sung in like manner, followed by the response:*

**℟** Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation,  
 Let us \*pray to the **Lord have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, the well-being of the Church of God, and the unity of all,  
Let us \*pray to the **Lord have mercy.**

For this holy people of God, and all who offer him worship and praise,  
Let us \*pray to the **Lord have mercy.**

For pastors and ministers of the Gospel, servants of the Church, missionaries and teachers of  
God's Word, for this congregation, and the whole Church on earth,  
Let us \*pray to the **Lord have mercy.**

For public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and  
strengthened in every good deed,  
Let us \*pray to the **Lord have mercy.**

For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place,  
Let us \*pray to the **Lord have mercy.**

For those who bring offerings, those who do good works among us, those who toil, those who  
make music and sing, and all people here who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy,  
Let us \*pray to the **Lord have mercy.**

For favorable weather, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and peace in this and every land,  
Let us \*pray to the **Lord have mercy.**

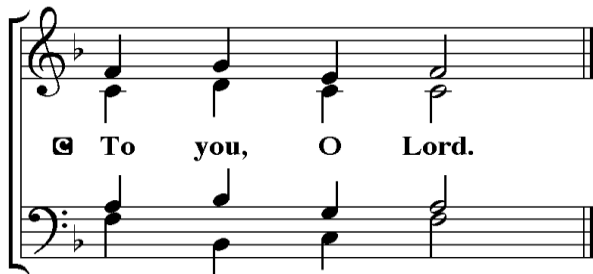
For deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need,  
Let us \*pray to the **Lord have mercy.**

For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest,  
We give \*thanks to the **Lord for His mercy.**

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

*We observe silent for meditation and additional unspoken prayers.*

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole  
life to \*Christ, our Lord.



O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your  
servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your  
commandments, and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace  
and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and  
the Holy Spirit, God forever. **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

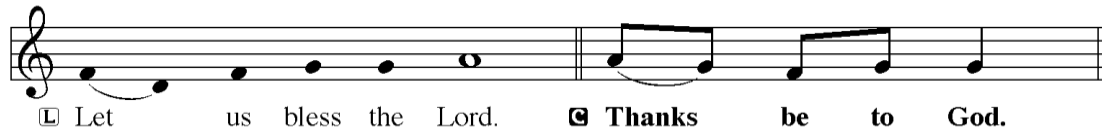
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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.**



*Please be seated.*

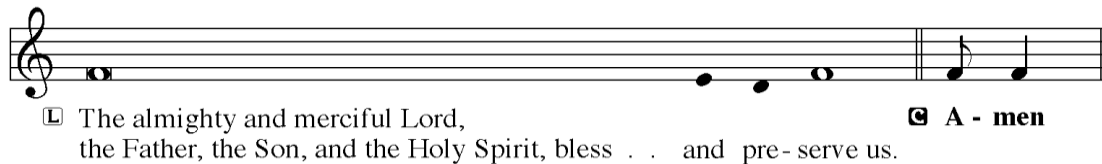
LENTEN MEDITATION – selected excerpts from the Rev. Dr. Jim Nestingen's *Free to Be*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## SENDING PRAYER

Let us pray. Lord 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.**

## BENEDICTION



*We depart in peace. Please return this worship bulletin as you leave.*

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Pianist: Lavenia D. Hentz or Laurie Lackey

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