



Holden Evening Prayer Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Welcome to Worship

Leader: Jesus Christ, You are the light of the world,

All: The light no darkness can overcome.

Leader: Stay with us now, for it is evening,

All: And the day is almost over.

Leader: Let Your light scatter the darkness,

All: And shine within Your people here.

Evening Hymn

Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory

Joyous light of heav'nly glory, loving glow of God's own face,
You who sing creation's story, shine on every land and race.
Now as evening falls around us, we shall raise our songs to you,
God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.

In the stars that grace the darkness, in the blazing sun of dawn,
In the light of peace and wisdom, we can hear Your quiet song.
Love that fills the night with wonder, love that warms the weary soul,
Love that bursts all chains asunder, set us free and make us whole.

You who made the heaven's splendor, every dancing star of night,
Make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect Your light.
Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way,
Loving Spirit of salvation lead us on to endless day.

Leader: May God be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us sing our thanks to God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: Blessed are you, Creator of the universe, from old you have led your people by night and day.
May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the
light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

All: Amen

Psalm 141

Refrain: Let my prayer rise up like incense before you,
The lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

1. O God, I call to you, come to me now,
O hear my voice when I cry to you. (*Refrain*)

2. Keep watch within me, God, deep in my heart may the
Light of your love be burning bright. *(Refrain)*
3. All praise to the God of all, Creator of life,
All praise be to Christ and the Spirit of love. *(Refrain)*

Prayer

May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us,
so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.

Amen.

Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, they are like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and gently lead the sheep.

Message

Offering

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Leader: The light shines in the darkness.

All: And the darkness has not overcome it.

The Annunciation

Luke 1:26-38

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."

The Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you.
You have looked with love on your servant here, And blessed me all my life through.
Great and mighty are you, O Holy One, strong is your kindness evermore.
How you favor the weak and lowly one, humbling the proud of heart!

You have cast the mighty down from their thrones, and uplifted the humble of heart.
You have filled the hungry with wondrous things, and left the wealthy no part.

Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One, strong is your justice, strong your love,
As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness forevermore.

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you.
You have looked with love on your servant here, And blessed me all my life through.

Litany and Prayers

Leader: In peace, in peace, we pray to you, **All: God of mercy, hold us in love.**
Leader: For peace and salvation, we pray to you, **All: God of mercy, hold us in love.**
Leader: For peace between nations for peace between peoples, **All: God of mercy, hold us in love.**
Leader: For all who are gathered to worship and praise you, **All: God of mercy, hold us in love.**
Leader: For all of your servants who live out the gospel, **All: God of mercy, hold us in love.**
Leader: For all those who govern, that justice might guide them, **All: God of mercy, hold us in love.**
Leader: For all those who labor in service to others, **All: God of mercy, hold us in love.**
Leader: Grant weather that nourishes all of creation, **All: God of mercy, hold us in love.**
Leader: Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger, **All: God of mercy, hold us in love.**
Leader: For all the beloved who rest in our mercy, **All: God of mercy, hold us in love.**
Leader: Help us, comfort us, all of our days. **All: Keep us, hold us, gracious God.**

Closing Prayer

Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life,
give to your people the peace that passes all understanding,
and the will to live your gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Leader: God, remember us in Your love, and teach us to pray:
All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Final Blessing

Leader: Let us bless our God.
All: Praise and thanks to You.
Leader: May God, Creator, bless us and keep us, may Christ be ever light for our lives,
May the Spirit of Love be our guide and path for all of our days.
All: Amen

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.