

Lenten Midweek Worship

Evening Prayer: Vespers

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 309)

The assembly stands. A large, lighted candle may be carried to its place.

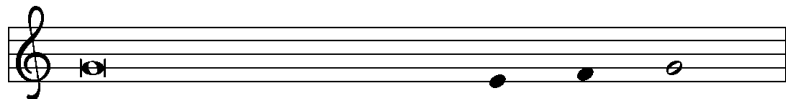
A dialogue may accompany or follow the procession. When it is sung, the following or a similar tone may be used, the assembly echoing the leader.



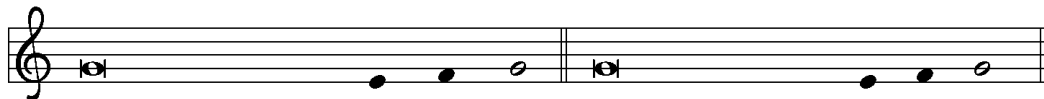
Behold, now is the accept - a - ble time; **now is the day of sal - vation.**



Turn us again, O God of our sal - vation,



that the light of your face may shine on us.



May your justice shine like the sun; **and may the poor be lift - ed up.**

If the hymn of light and thanksgiving for light are omitted, the service continues with the psalmody.

HYMN OF LIGHT (ELW p. 310)

A hymn of praise to Christ the light (#229-231, 560-563) may be sung, during which candles may be lighted. When the large candle is used, other candles are lighted from its flame.

O Light Whose Splendor Thrills



1 O Light whose splen - dor thrills and glad - dens
2 As twi - light hov - ers near at sun - set,
3 In all life's bril - liant, time - less mo - ments,



with ra - diance bright - er than the sun,
and lamps are lit, and chil - dren nod,
let faith - ful voic - es sing your praise,



pure gleam of God's un - end - ing glo - ry,
in eve - ning hymns we lift our voic - es
O Son of God, our life - be - stow - er,



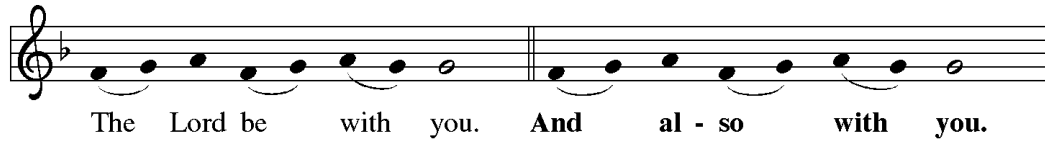
O Je - sus, blest A - noint - ed One:
to Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son, one God.
whose glo - ry light - ens end - less days.

Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent.; para. Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
Music: ST. CLEMENT, Clement C. Scholefield, 1839-1904
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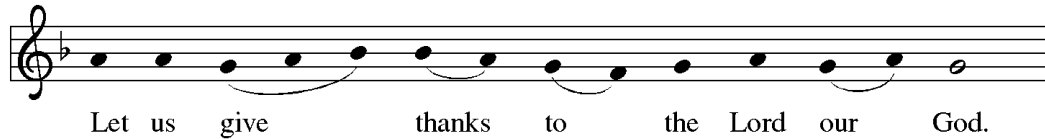
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THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT (ELW p. 310)

The leader and the assembly give thanks, using the following or another appropriate form.



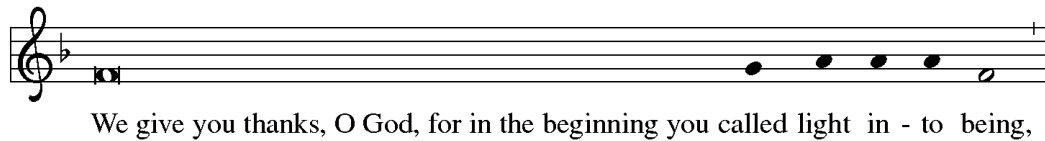
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



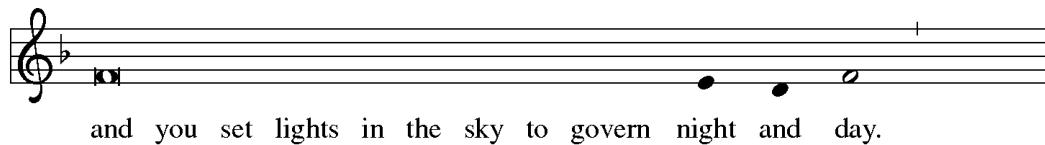
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



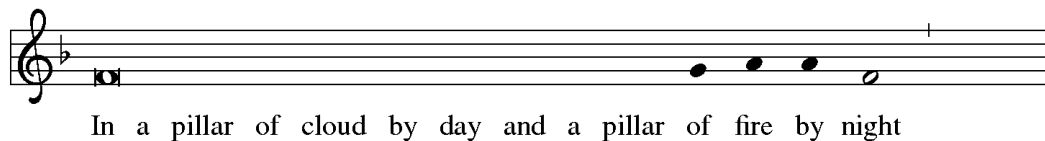
It is right to give our thanks and praise.



We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light in - to being,



and you set lights 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 peo - ple in - to freedom.

Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ; may your 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 with all your crea-tures we give you glory,

through your Son Je - sus Christ, in the unity of the Ho - ly Spirit,

now and for - ev - er. **A - men.**

PSALMODY (ELW p. 312)

The psalmody begins with Psalm 141, a song of forgiveness and protection; Psalm 121; or another psalm appropriate for evening.

All



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



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

Group One or All



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

All



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.

Group Two or All



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

Group One or All



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 -

Group Two or All



do - ers. But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God;



in you I take ref - uge. Strip me not of my life.

All



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.

SONG (ELW p. 313)

Additional assembly song may follow the psalmody. A hymn appropriate to the time of day or the season is normally sung, the assembly standing.

READINGS (ELW p. 313)

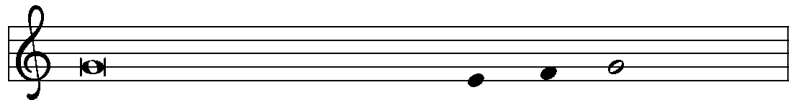
The assembly is seated.

The service includes one or more scripture readings. Each reading may be concluded with, "The word of the Lord," or "Word of God, word of life."

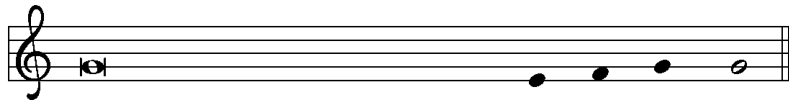
The assembly responds, "Thanks be to God."

The reading of scripture is followed by silence for reflection. Other forms of reflection may also follow, such as brief commentary, teaching, or personal witness; non-biblical readings; interpretation through music or other art forms; or guided conversation among those present.

The reflection may conclude with a scriptural dialogue. When it is sung, the following or a similar tone may be used, the assembly echoing the leader.



Jesus said, I am the light of the world.



Whoever follows me will never walk in dark - ness.

GOSPEL CANTICLE (ELW p. 314)

The assembly stands to sing the gospel canticle for evening, the song of Mary, using the following or another musical version (#234-235; 251, 573, 723, 882).

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

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PRAYERS (ELW p. 316)

The assembly kneels or stands. The following litany or another form of the prayers may be sung or spoken.

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 name/s and all servants of the church, for this assembly, and for all people who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us | pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Other petitions may be added.

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

A time of silence follows.

Giving thanks for all who have gone before us and are at rest, rejoicing in the communion of name/s and all the saints, we commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to you,

through Christ our Lord.

To you, O Lord.

The litany may be followed by one or more additional prayers.

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.

OR

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 Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

Amen.

OR

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 (ELW p. 318)

The Lord's Prayer is sung or spoken. The leader may introduce the prayer.

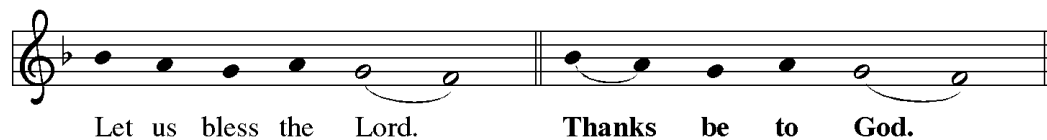
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

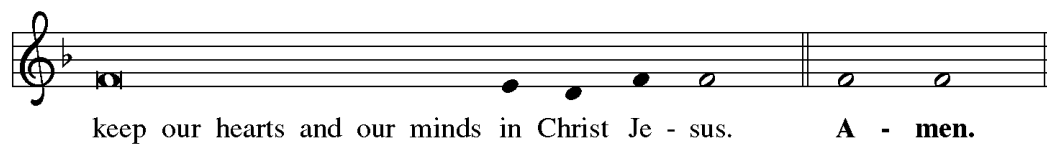
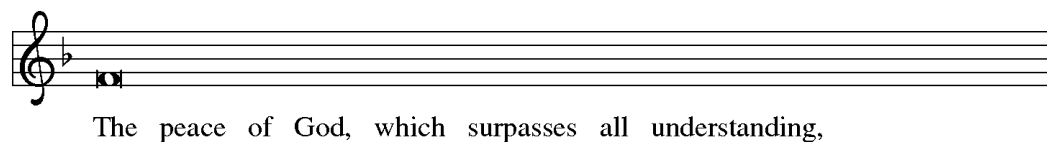
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

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

BLESSING (ELW p. 319)



The leader continues:



A hymn may be sung.

The greeting of peace may be shared by all.

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