



Lenten Vespers

Welcome

From the gathering around word and sacrament on the first day of the week, Christians are sent by God to continue their worship each day through lives of service. St. Paul's guidance to "pray without ceasing... for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18) suggests that the Christian life is prayer: openness to the presence of God, responsiveness to the word of God, recognition that all of life is in Christ, and engagement in care for one another and for the whole creation. Daily prayer is a gift that nourishes growth toward living all of daily life in prayer.

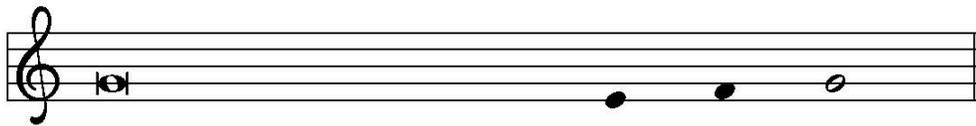
Evening prayer, or vespers, has a special dimension, calling to mind Christ's passage through death to resurrection. As evening comes, we look to the light of Christ that scatters the darkness, even as we anticipate the great awakening of the resurrection.



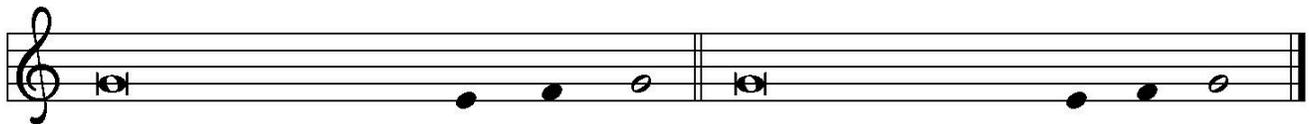
Behold, now is the accept - a - ble time; **now is the day of sal - vation.**



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

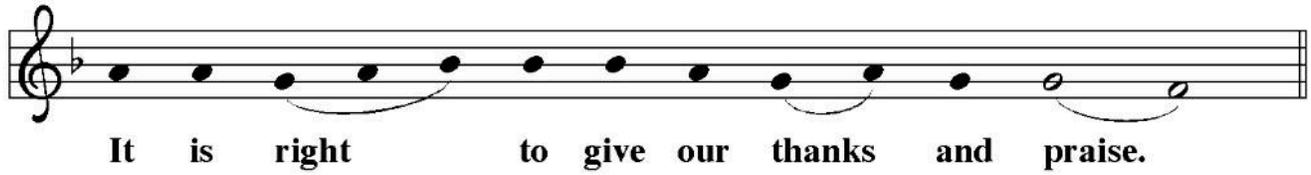
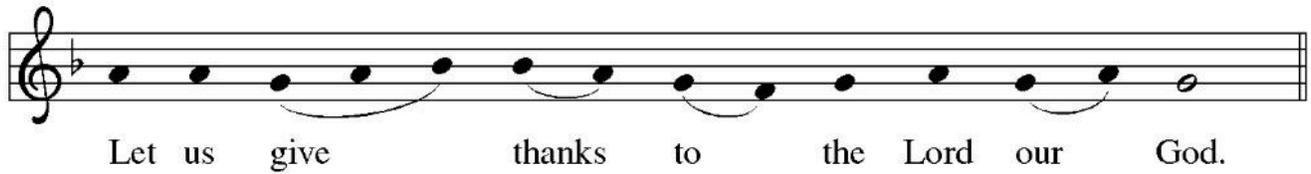
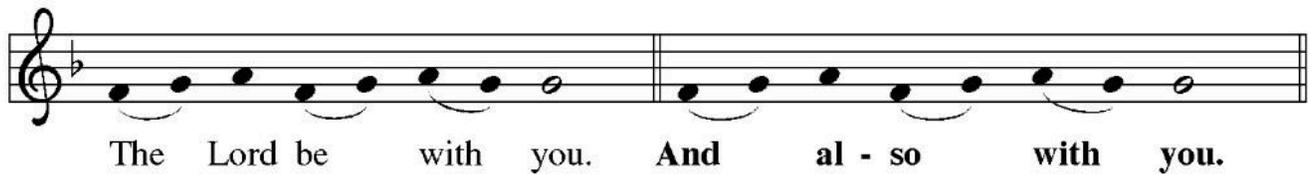


that the light of your face may shine on us.



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

Hymn of Light: ELW 561 "Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory"



(Cantor)

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light into 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 people into 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 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.

All

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



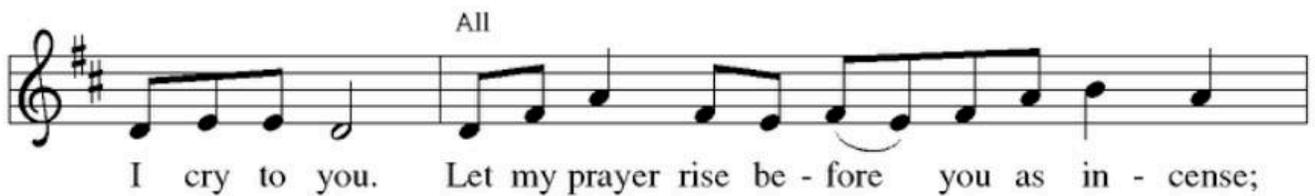
the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac - ri - fice.

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

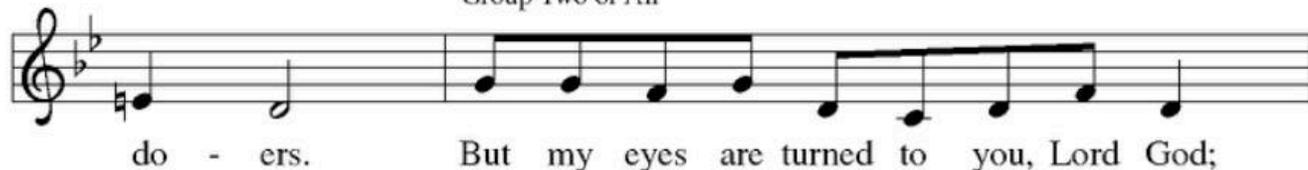


Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;

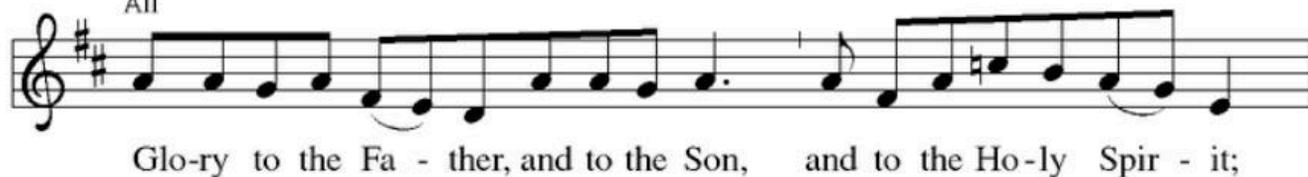


let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil -

Group Two or All



All



Song

Week 1: ELW 570 "Now the Day is Over"

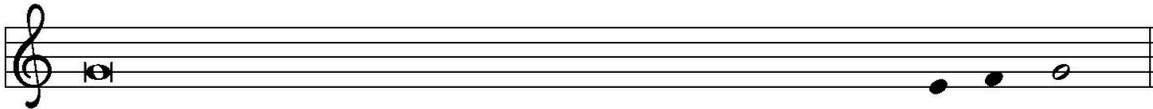
Week 2: ELW 565 "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night"

Week 3: ELW 564 "God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven"

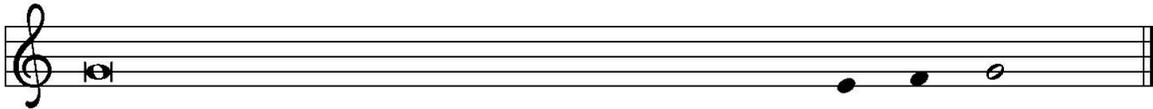
Week 4: ELW 629 "Abide With Me"

Readings

Reflections



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.

The congregation will sing the refrain; the cantor will sing the verses.

Refrain

My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord, my
spir - it re - joic - es in God my Sav - ior.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
My spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
For you, Lord, have looked with favor on
your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me
bless'd:
You, the Almighty, have done great things
for me
And holy is your name. *Refrain*

You have filled the hungry with good things
And sent the rich away empty.
You have come to the aid of your servant
Israel,
To remember the promise of mercy,
The promise made to our forebears,
To Abraham and his children forever.
Refrain

You have mercy on those who fear you,
From generation to generation.
You have shown strength with your arm
And scattered the proud in their conceit,
Casting down the mighty from their thrones
And lifting up the lowly. *Refrain*

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 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.**

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 all the saints, we commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to you,

The image shows a musical score for two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music is in 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'through Christ our Lord. To you, O Lord.' The melody consists of a series of quarter notes: G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The accompaniment consists of a series of chords: G4-F4, E4-D4, C4-B3, B3-A3.

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 our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

Amen.

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

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,

your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we

for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al

and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,

and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

 *Doxology*

**Be present at our table, Lord
Be here and everywhere adored.
These mercies bless and grant that we
May feast in fellowship with thee.
Amen.**

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

Holy Week at Joy in Christ

Maundy Thursday 4/02/26

Worship 5:00pm

Car Wash 1:00pm-3:00pm

Good Friday 4/03/26

Worship 5:00pm

Easter Vigil 4/04/26

Worship 5:00pm

Easter Sunday 4/05/26

Worship 9:00am

Brunch 10:00am



Joy in Christ Lutheran Church acknowledges that indigenous peoples and nations, including the Osage, Quapaw, and Caddo, have stewarded through generations the lands and waterways of what is now Hot Springs Village and Central Arkansas. We honor and respect the enduring relationship that exists between these peoples and nations and this land.