



MESSIAH
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MADISON, ALABAMA
God's People. Reaching Out

December 13, 2023
Midweek Advent Service of Worship
[Online Guest / Worshiper Form](#)



Good Evening and Welcome!

Guests, we are so glad you are here. Please fill out the yellow "Connection Card" in the pew and place in the offering basket or give to the usher or the pastor as you leave. *Sound Assistance and staffed nursery available.*

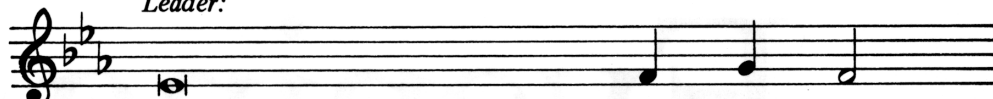
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SERVICE OF WORSHIP
Holden Evening Prayer

THE PRELUDE

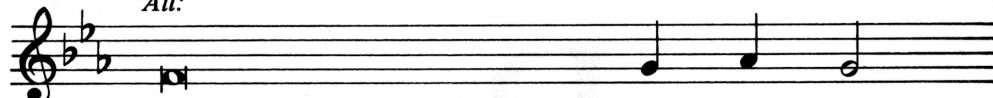
*THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

Leader:



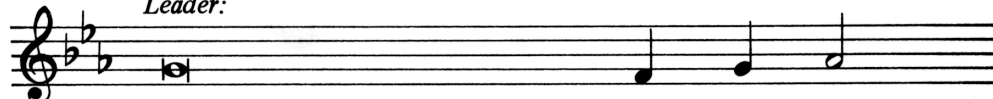
Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

All:



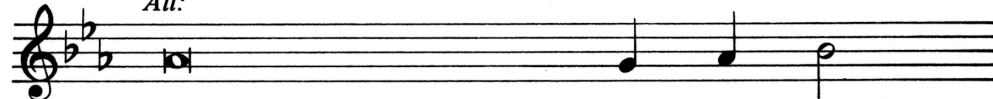
the light no darkness can o - ver - come;

Leader:



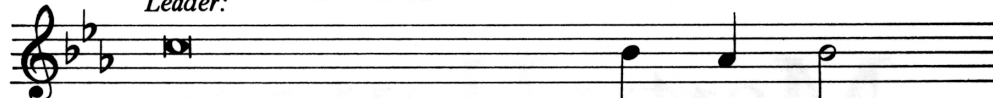
Stay with us now, for it is evening,

All:



and the day is al - most over.

Leader:



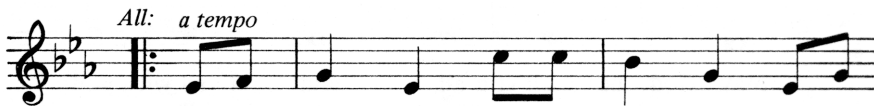
Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

All:

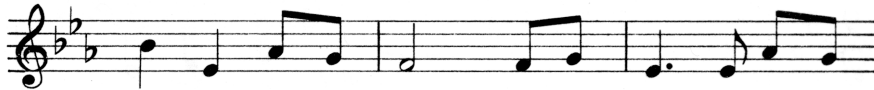


and shine within your peo-ple here. —

*EVENING HYMN: "Joyous Light of Heav'nly Glory"



1. Joy-ous light of heav-'nly glo - ry, lov - ing
2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the
3. You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry



glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's
blaz - ing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and
danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle



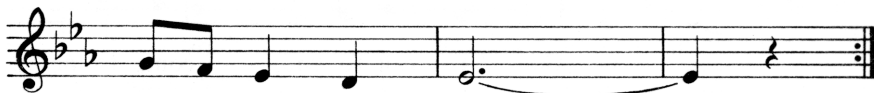
sto - ry, shine on ev 'ry land and race. Now as
wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that
jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y



eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to
fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry
God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our



you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and
soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us
way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us



light our hearts a - new. _____
free and make us whole. _____
on to end - less day. _____

Leader: *All:*

May God be with you all, and al - so 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:

A - - - men.

*PSALM 141: "Let My Prayer Rise Up as Incense"

All:

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

fore you, the lift - ing up of my

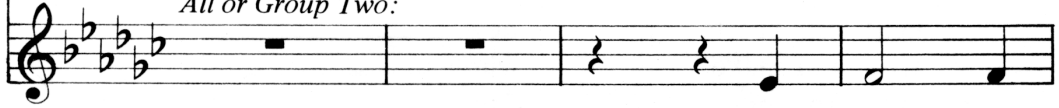
hands as an of - fer - ing to you. _____

Leader or Group One:



— O God, I call to you, come to me

All or Group Two:



O God, I



now; O hear my voice when I



call to you, come to me now; O



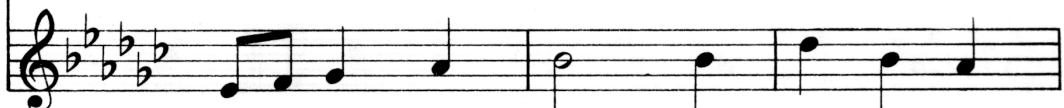
cry to you. ————— Let my prayer rise




hear my voice when I cry to you.



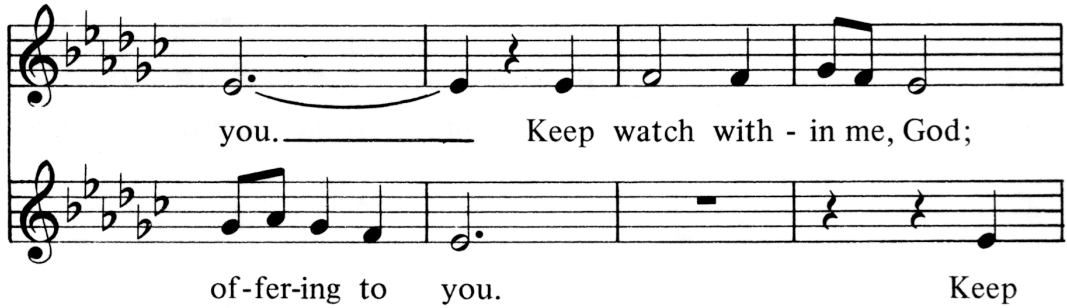
up like in cense be - fore you, the



Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -



lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to
fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an



you. Keep watch with - in me, God;
of-fer-ing to you. Keep



deep in my heart may the light of your love be
watch with - in me, God; deep in my heart may the



burn - ing bright. Let my prayer rise
light of your love be burn - ing bright.

up like in - cense be - fore you, the

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to

fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an

you. All praise to the God of all- Cre-

of-fer-ing to you. All

a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the

praise to the God of all- Cre - a - tor of life; all

Spir - it of love. ————— Let my prayer rise

praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of love.

up like in - cense be - fore you, the

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to

fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an

you. —————

of - fer - ing to you.

*PRAYER

(silence for meditation)

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

Luke 1:1-25

¹ Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things which have been accomplished among us, ² just as they were delivered to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, ³ it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely^[a] for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ that you may know the truth concerning the things of which you have been informed.

⁵ In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. ⁸ Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰ Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹ Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴ You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great before the Lord, and he shall drink no wine nor strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷ and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Eli'jah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

¹⁸ And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." ¹⁹ And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who stand in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." ²¹ And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they wondered at his delay in the temple. ²² And when he came out, he could not speak to them, and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he made signs to them and remained dumb. ²³ And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴ After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she hid herself, saying, ²⁵ "Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men."

MEDITATION: Go and Be Present and Pause

HYMN: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" vs 1,2



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

THE OFFERING

*THE OFFERTORY: "The Doxology"

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;

Praise him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

The light shines in the darkness
And the darkness has not overcome it.

***THE ANNUNCIATION & THE MAGNIFICAT**

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**

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.

*THE LITANY

A *All: Repeat continuously*

(Hmmm)

B

God of mer - cy, hold us in love.

Leader: **A** **B**

1. In peace, in peace, we pray_ to you:

Leader: **A** **B**

2. For peace and sal-va-tion, we pray to you:

Leader: **A** **B**

3. For peace be-tween na-tions, for peace be-tween peo-ples:

4. For us who are gath-ered to wor-ship and praise you:
5. For all of your ser-vants who live out your gos-pel:
6. For all those who gov-ern, that jus-tice might guide them:
7. For all those who la-bor in ser-vice to oth-ers:
8. Grant weath-er that nour-ish - es all of cre - a - tion:
9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from dan-ger:
10. For all the be-lov - ed who rest in your mer-cy:

Leader:

Help us, com - fort us, all of our days:

All:

Keep — us, hold — us, gra - cious God.

***PRAYERS**

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.

God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:

**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.
 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: *All:*

Let us bless our God: praise and thanks to you.

Presider:

May God, Cre - a - tor bless us and keep us, may

Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the

Spir - it of Love be our guide and path, for

all of our days. _____

All:

A - men.

THE POSTLUDE