


REJOICE IN GOD YOUR SAVIOR!

*MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE
DECEMBER 9, 2015*



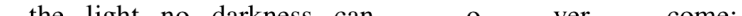
"Evening Prayer" is based on the historic service called "Vespers." Christians gather at the end of the day to raise their voices in thankful praise and prayer.

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: *poco rit.*

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

EVENING HYMN

All: a tempo



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



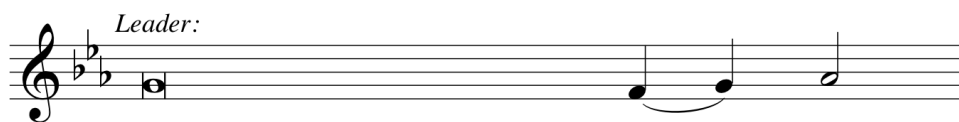
light our hearts a - new. _____
 free and make us whole. _____
 on to end - less day. _____

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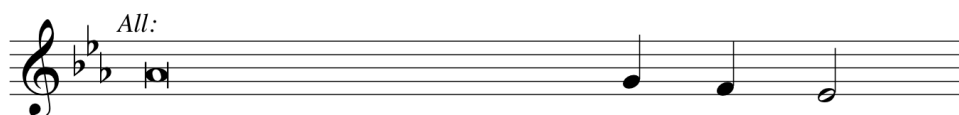
EVENING THANKSGIVING



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



Let us sing our thanks to ——— God,



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.



A - - - - - men.

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L Let us pray:

Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. May your Word keep our faith burning brightly that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we worship you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

~Please be seated

EVENING PSALM | Psalm 141

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. —

— O God, I call to you, come to me

now; O hear my voice when I

cry to you. — 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. — Keep watch with - in me, God;

deep in my heart may the light of your love be

burn - ing bright. — Let my prayer rise

Psalm 141 is a traditional evening psalm. Incense symbolizes the prayers of the faithful ascending from earth to heaven. A more ancient Christian understanding is that clouds of incense represent cleansing and purification (Numbers 16:46-47) and the covering over of sin with the sweetness of Christ's self-sacrifice.

up like in-cense be - fore you, the

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

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

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

Spir - it of love. 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.

[L] Let us pray:

Let our prayers be acceptable in your sight. Come and help us in time of need that we may sing your praise in holy joy now and forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

[C] Amen.

THE WORD

LESSON | *Micah 5:2-5 (pg. 1445)*

- ² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”
- ³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor gives birth
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.
- ⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.
- ⁵ And he will be their peace.

Silence for meditation

L The Light shines in the darkness

C and the darkness has not overcome it.



*God promises a ruler
whose origins are from
of old and whose peace
knows no end.*

HYMN | #23 *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*

DEVOTION | Luke 1:46-55

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—

holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him,

from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;

he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones

but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things

but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,

remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,

even as he said to our fathers.”

Silence for meditation

RESPONSE

L The Lord will come again in glory.

C The Spirit and the Church cry out: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

SONG OF MARY | *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, heart, You have looked with love on your
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
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

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Luther considered this song one of the most magnificent statements of faith in all of Scripture. The *Magnificat* is the song of the faithful church as she waits “quietly for the fulfillment of the word of promise.”

OFFERING

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him.

EVENING LITANY AND PRAYERS

A *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.

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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

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.



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