

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

A North American Lutheran Church Congregation

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gracelutheranwc.org

God's Guiding Promises



Vespers Service

March 22, 2023

Stand

SERVICE OF LIGHT: C – CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



☐ Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, ☑ **the light no darkness can over- come.**



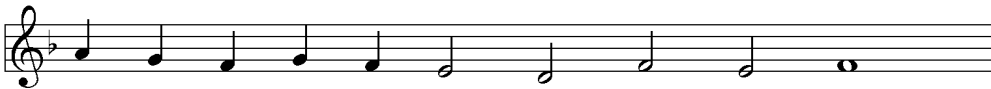
☐ Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve-ning, ☑ **and the day is almost o- ver.**



☐ Let your light scat- ter the dark-ness, ☑ **and illumine your Church.**



☐ Joy-ous light of glo - ry: ☑ **of the im- mor- tal Fa - ther;**



heav- en - ly, ho - ly, bless - ed Je - sus Christ.



We have come to the set- ting of the sun, and we look to the eve- ning light.



We sing to God, the Fa- ther, Son, and Ho- ly Spir - it: You are wor- thy of



be- ing praised with pure voic- es for - ev - er. O Son of God,

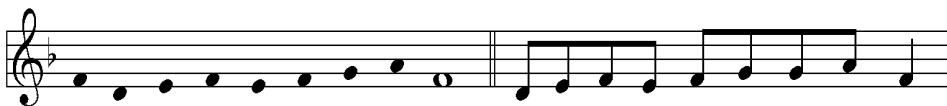


O Giv- er of life: The u - ni- verse pro- claims your glo - ry.

THANKSGIVING



☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ **And al - so with you.**



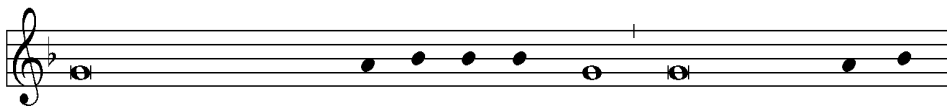
☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. ☑ **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**



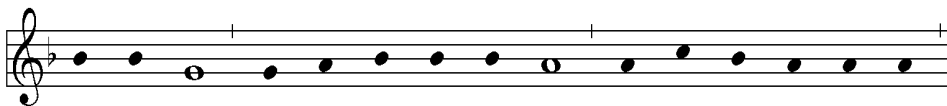
☐ Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led your people



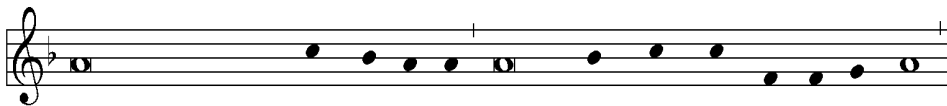
Israel by a pil - lar of cloud by day and a pil - lar of fire by night:



Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ; may his 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 we, your crea - tures, glo - ri - fy you,



Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it. ☑ **A - men**

Kneel/Sit

PSALMODY



Silence for meditation

L Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before you, O Lord, and let your loving kindness descend upon us, that with purified minds we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host, and may glorify you forever and ever.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 1:4-10; 17-19

⁴The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

⁵“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

⁶“Alas, Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.”

⁷But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. ⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.

⁹Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”

¹⁷“Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them. ¹⁸Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land—against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the people of the land. ¹⁹They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.

R The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Praise and hon-or to you, Lord Je - sus Christ!



Praise and hon-or to you, Lord Je - sus Christ!

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 3:1-17

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”

⁴ John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶ Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God

can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

¹⁵ Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Be Seated

THE REFLECTION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

George Reinhart

PASTOR’S REFLECTION

Pastor Phil Hohulin



654 Change My Heart, O God

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Psalm 51:10

Unison

Change my heart, O God, Make it ev-er true.

The first system of music is in 4/4 time and features a unison vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a quarter rest, followed by the lyrics 'Change my heart, O God, Make it ev-er true.' The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line and a treble line with chords and moving lines.

Change my heart, O God,

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The vocal line has a quarter rest before the lyrics 'Change my heart, O God,'. The piano accompaniment maintains the same rhythmic pattern.

May I be like You. You are the

The third system includes a triplet of eighth notes in both the vocal and piano parts. The vocal line has a quarter rest before the lyrics 'May I be like You. You are the'. The piano accompaniment features a triplet of eighth notes in the bass line.

Pot - ter, I am the clay;

The fourth system concludes the piece. The vocal line has a quarter rest before the lyrics 'Pot - ter, I am the clay;'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern.

TEXT: Eddie Espinosa

MUSIC: Eddie Espinosa

CHANGE MY HEART

Irregular meter

Mold me and make me, This is what I

pray. Change my heart, O God,

Make it ev-er true. Change my heart, O God,

May I be like You. You.

L In many and various ways God spoke to his people of old by the prophets.

C **But now in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.**

Stand

GOSPEL CANTICLE (*Spoken*)

C My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed.

The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.

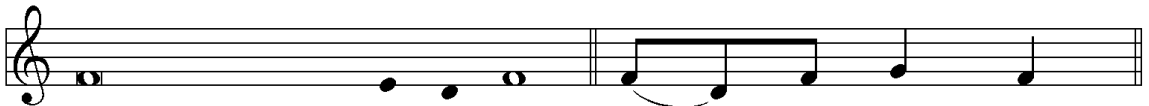
He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever.

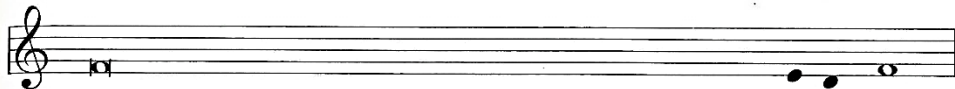
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Kneel/Stand

LITANY



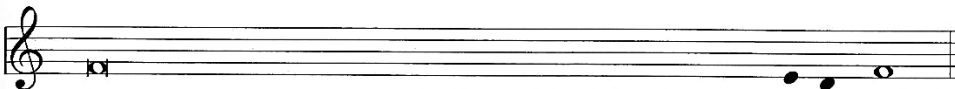
☒ In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **☑** Lord, have mer - cy.



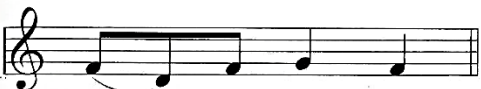
□ For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



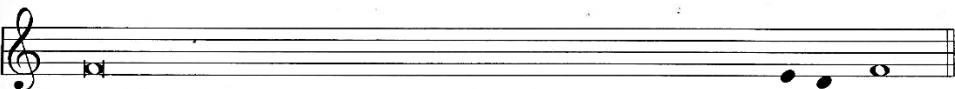
□ Lord, have mer - cy.



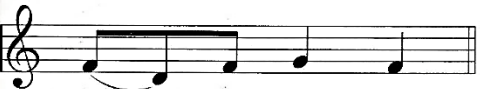
□ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray. . . to the Lord.



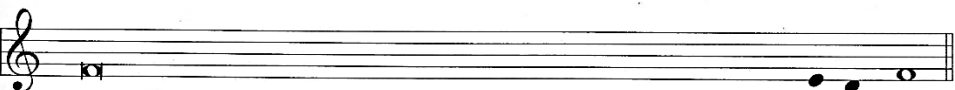
□ Lord, have mer - cy.



□ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



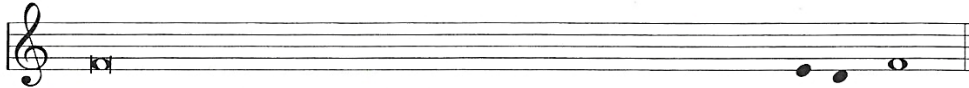
□ Lord, have mer - cy.



□ For _____^{names}_____, for our *pastor/pastors* in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.



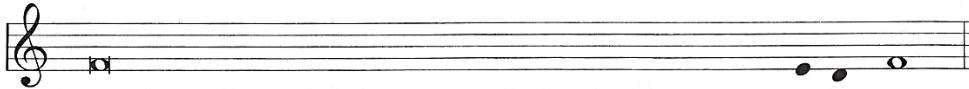
□ Lord, have mer - cy.



L For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray . . . to the Lord.



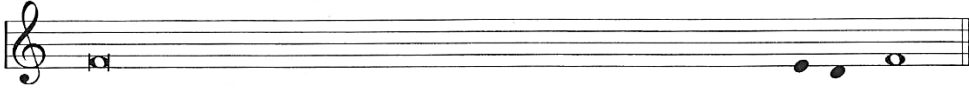
C Lord, have mer - cy.



L For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.



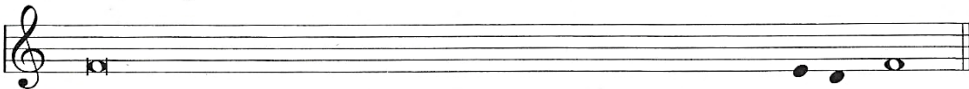
C Lord, have mer - cy.



L For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray . . . to the Lord.



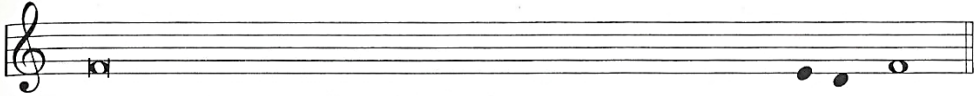
C Lord, have mer - cy.



L For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.



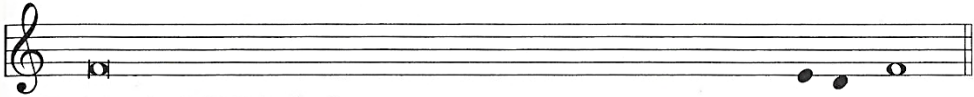
C Lord, have mer - cy.



L For our deliverance from all affliction,
wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord.



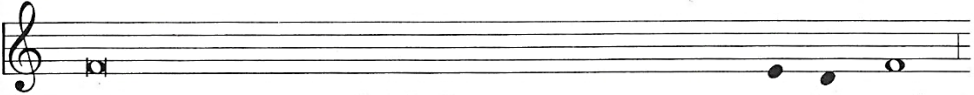
C Lord, have mer - cy.



L For the faithful who have gone
before us and are at rest, let us give thanks to the Lord.

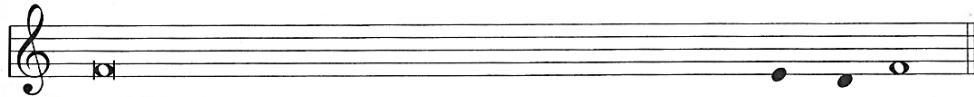


C Thanks be to - God.



L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord.

Silence for meditation



L Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us
commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.



C To you, O Lord.

- L 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 the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever.
- C **Amen.**

Stand

LORD'S PRAYER

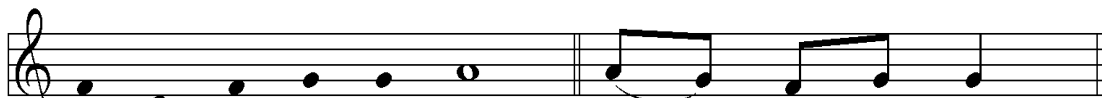
P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.**



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

SENDING HYMN

Abide with Me

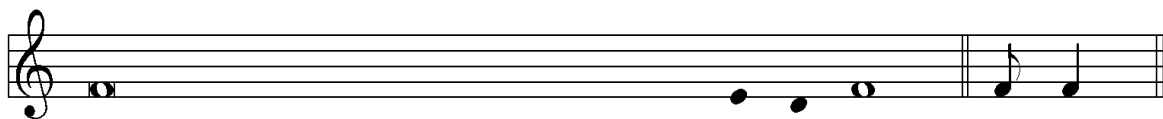
1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
3 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

BENEDICTION



☐ The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless . . . and pre-serve us.

☒ **A - men**

As a congregation of the
North American Lutheran Church
we are guided by four core values:

1. Christ Centered
2. Mission Driven
3. Traditionally Grounded
4. Congregationally Focused



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