

# LENTEN VESPERS

Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 6:30 p.m.  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
Northfield, Minnesota



## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

## Service of Light — from *Holden Evening Prayer*

*Cantor* *All*

Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world; the light no darkness can o - ver - come;

*Cantor* *All*

Stay with us now, for it is evening, and the day is al - most over.

*Cantor* *All*

Let your light scat - ter the darkness, and shine within your peo - ple

here.

2

# Evening Hymn — “Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory”

JOYOUS LIGHT



Joy - ous light of heav'n - ly glo - ry, lov - ing glow of God's own face,  
In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing sun of dawn,  
You who made the heav - en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry danc - ing star of night,



you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on ev - 'ry land and race.  
in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song.  
make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light.



Now as eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to you.  
Love that fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul,  
Might - y God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way,

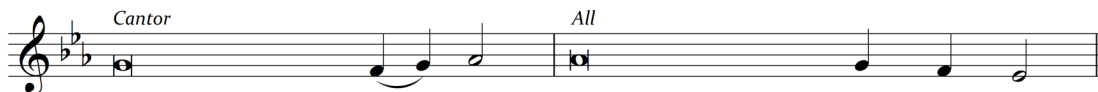


God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.  
love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.  
lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

## 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.

*Cantor: 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.

# Psalmody — Psalm 141, “Let My Prayer Rise Up”

Please sing with either Group I or Group II.

*All*

Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the  
lift-ing up of my hands as an offering to you.

*Group I*

O God, I call to you, come to me now; O hear my voice when I

*Group II*

O God, I call to you, come to me now; O

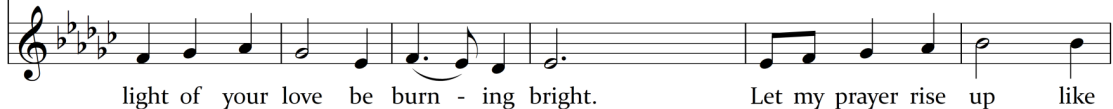
cry to you. Let my prayer rise up like incense be -  
hear my voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise up like

fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an offering to you. Keep  
incense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an offering to you.

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



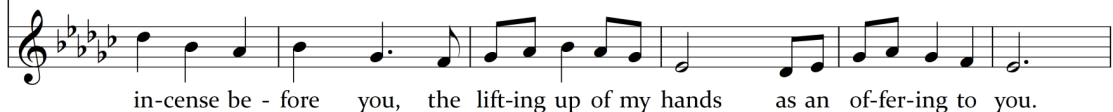
burn - ing bright. Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be -



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



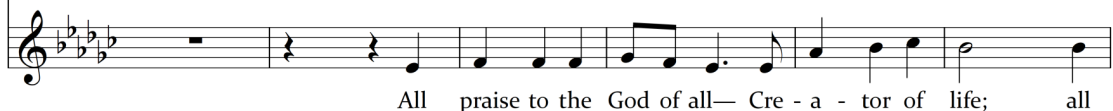
fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you. All



in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.



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



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



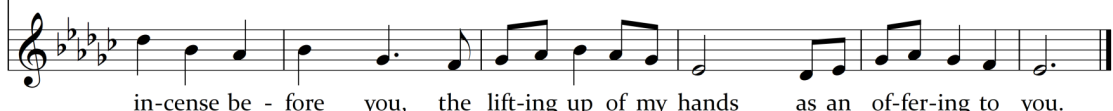
Spir - it of love. Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be -



praise be to Christ and the Spir-it of love. Let my prayer rise up like



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



in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

## Prayer

- ☐ 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 — Revelation 5:11-14

<sup>11</sup>Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup>singing with full voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” <sup>13</sup>Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, “To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” <sup>14</sup>And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

## Homily — David Sims

*For hymns sung during the homily, see the insert included at the end of the bulletin.*

## The Annunciation

Cantor: *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

1., 3. My soul pro - claims your great - ness, O God, and my  
2. You have cast the might - y down from their thrones, and up -

spir - it re - joic - es in you, You have looked with love on your  
lift - ed the hum - ble of heart, You have filled the hun - gry with

ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.  
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

*fine last time*

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. How you fa - vor the  
strong is your jus - tice, strong your love, As you prom - ised to  
weak and low - ly one, hum - bling the proud of heart.  
Sar - ah and A - bra - ham, kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

## Prayers

**All:** *(repeat continuously while cantor sings verses)*

(Hmm) God of mer - cy, hold us in love.

**Cantor:** *In peace, in peace, we pray to you:*

*For peace and salvation, we pray to you:*

*For peace between nations, and peace between peoples:*

*For all of your servants who live out your gospel:*

*For all those who govern, that justice might guide them:*

*For all those who labor in service to others:*

*Grant weather that nourishes all of creation:*

*Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger:*

*For all the beloved who rest in your mercy:*

*Cantor*

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

*All*

Keep us, hold us, gra - cious God.

### \*Closing Prayer

- ☐ 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.**

### \*The Lord's Prayer

- ☐ 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

*Cantor*

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

*Cantor*

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.

## \*Peace

- The peace of Christ be with you always.
- And also with you.

*You are invited to share God's peace with those around you.*

## Worship Leaders:

Kristin Partlo, Pastor Pam Fickenscher,  
Pastor Jonathan Davis, David Sims  
Nathan Proctor, piano





Hymn — “Let My Spirit Always Sing” (*All Creation Sings* #1020)

SPIRITSONG



Let my spir - it al - ways sing, though my heart be win - ter - ing,  
 Though my bod - y be con - fined, let your word en - gage my mind,  
 Let your wis - dom grace my years, choose my words and chase my fears,  
 Let my spir - it al - ways sing, to your Spir - it an - swer - ing,



though the sea - son of de - spair give no sign that you are there,  
 let the in - ner eye dis - cern how much more there is to learn,  
 give me wit to wel - come change, to ac - cept, and not es - trange,  
 through the si - lence, through the pain know my hope is not in vain,



God to whom my days be - long, let there al - ways be a song.  
 see a world be - com - ing whole through the win - dow of the soul.  
 let my joy be full and deep in the knowl - edge that I keep.  
 like a feath - er on your breath trust your love, through life and death.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, © 1996 Hope Publishing Company; Music: Jane Marshall, © 2005 Jane Marshall, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Hymn — “Before the Waters Nourished Earth” (ACS #1049)

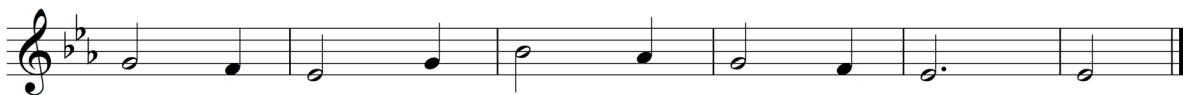
ST. COLUMBA



Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night i -  
 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of  
 Des - pair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows  
 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness



mag - ined morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the  
 E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in  
 par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's  
 still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -



u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.  
 mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.  
 faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.  
 gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, © 1996 admin. Augsburg Fortress; Music: Irish melody

Hymn — “As Rivers Flow from a Distant Spring” (ACS #1046)

HÖKELUND

As riv - ers flow from a dis - tant spring  
 As trees rise up from the for - est floor  
 As woods make shel - ter with - in its shade  
 So let us praise you, Cre - a - tor God,  
 to quench our thirst and feed the earth,  
 by roots that feed each limb a - bove,  
 for beasts to feed and birds to nest,  
 for worlds that wit - ness to your care,  
 so let our lives flow from you our Source,  
 so let our lives rise in praise to you  
 so let our lives be a shel - tered space,  
 that show your pres - ence in ev - 'ry place,  
 to coun - ter death and nur - ture birth.  
 from hearts we root in your deep love.  
 a ref - uge for the worn to rest.  
 your glo - ry shin - ing ev - 'ry - where.

Text: David Bjorlin, © 2020 GIA Publications; Music: William Beckstrand, © 2020 Augsburg Fortress