

LENTEN VESPERS

Wednesday, March 10, 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



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

Cantor Let us sing our thanks to God, *All* 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.



All 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 in - cense be - fore you, the
lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing 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 in-cense 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 of-fer-ing to you. Keep
in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing 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 — Psalm 139:1-14

¹LORD, you have searched me out; O LORD, you have known me. ²You know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar. ³You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O LORD, know it altogether. ⁵You encompass me, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it. ⁷Where can I go then from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? ⁸If I climb up to heaven, you are there; if I make the grave my bed, you are there also. ⁹If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, ¹⁰even there your hand will lead me and your right hand hold me fast. ¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," ¹²darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. ¹³For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

Homily — Martin Thorsheim

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 me 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)*

(Hmmm) 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

All

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

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

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

Worship Leaders:

Julie Zdenek, Pastor Pam Fickenscher,
Pastor Jonathan Davis, Martin Thorsheim
Nathan Proctor, piano

