ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

If you are a visitor, we are delighted to have you join us
in worshiping God and hearing His Word!
Please take a moment after the service to introduce yourself to our pastor.
You are cordially invited to join in our congregation's fellowship and
study of God's Word between services and all week long.

Today our worship follows the order of **Matins**.

"...about midnight, get out of your bed, wash with clean water and pray. If you have a wife, pray the psalms alternating verses with her...so you will learn to keep watch. Our Lord in His parable put it so: About midnight, He said, there came a call. 'Look! Here comes the bridegroom! Go out to meet him!' Keep watch then, he told them, for you do not know either the day or the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

Hippolytus of Rome, describing an early observance of Matins, about AD 200.

Matins, which means "of the morning," is the name of the ancient Christian order of prayer anticipating the break of day. Prayed at various times from midnight to morning, Matins trains us to receive each new day with watchfulness for Christ and with intercession, praise and thanksgiving.

More recently Matins has been used in the Church whenever God's people gather for worship without Holy Communion. It is wonderful to use as a guide for your prayer at home.

Matins places us for a while alongside the Old Testament saints who "only saw from a distance the things promised and welcomed…and admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth." (Heb. 11:13) This way of singing and praying marks Christians as people who emerge from darkness and death to praise God in the light of new life, every day and then forevermore. It is a powerful and gospel-shaped way to pray "from God's Word." May it bless you this morning!