

Lent Mid-Week Worship
Wednesday, March 13, 2024



FAITH . DISCIPLESHIP . COMMUNITY
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The Rev. Alejandro Mejia, Interim Senior Pastor
The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr., Interim Associate Pastor

At The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, we embrace the uniqueness of every individual and respect their dignity and worth, for all are created in the image of God. We strive to welcome everyone in the fullness of who they are.

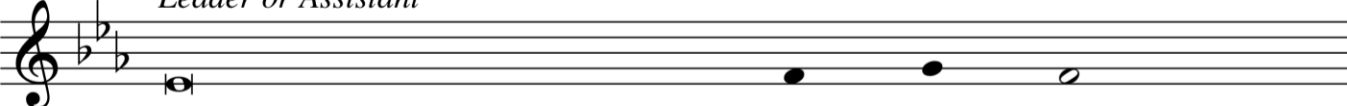
Let us call together for reconciliation, and live out God's vision of love for people of every sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic status, age, physical or mental ability, political persuasion, race, ethnicity, and personal history. Let us walk together to strive for racial equity, as Jesus calls us to do.

All people are welcome here to worship, build community, and grow together as Jesus' disciples at this place.

Prelude

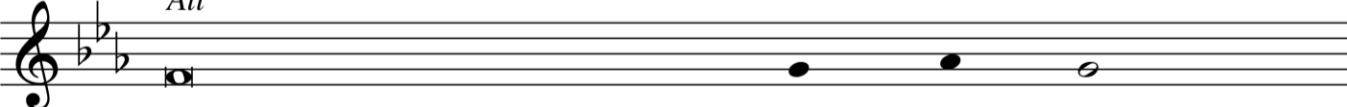
Evening Prayer

Leader or Assistant



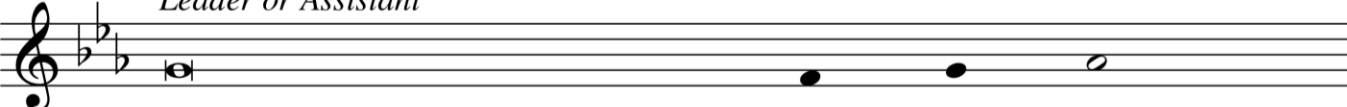
Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world,

All




the light no darkness can o - ver - come.

Leader or Assistant




Stay with us now, for it is evening,

All *Leader or Assistant*



and the day is al - most over. Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

All



and shine within your peo-ple here.

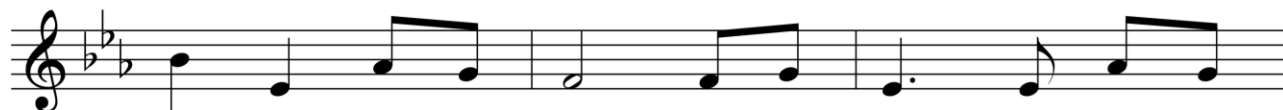
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Hymn of Light

All



1. Joy - ous light of heav'n - ly 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



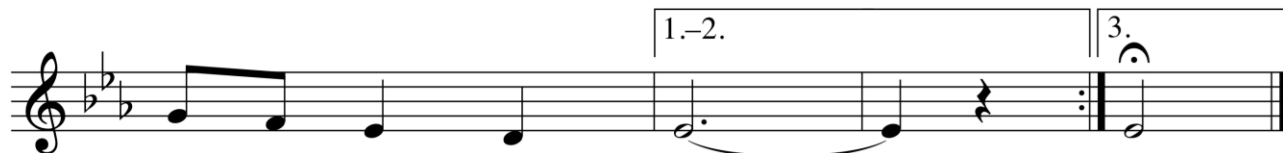
sto - ry, shine on ev - 'ry land and race. Now as
wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that
jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y



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.

Prayer

A *Come and let us walk in the light of the Lord! God will teach us of faithful ways,*

C **We will walk in the paths of the Lord!**

A *Show your servants your works, O Lord;*

C **And their children your glory.**

A *Let your merciful kindness be upon us,*

C **As we put our trust in you.**

A *Not to us, O Lord, not to us,*

C **But to your name be the praise.**

A *Lord, hear our prayer,*

C **And let our cry come to you.**

Exhortation

P *Friends in Christ, we are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love --the discipline of Lent -- help us to wage our spiritual warfare. Let us therefore turn to the Word of God this night. For the Word of God contains the Law and the Gospel and is the light before our eyes. The Gospel is God's gracious promise to us as his beloved children. It shows us all that He has done for us, in Israel and in Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins and for newness of life. Christ makes us his own and heirs of his kingdom. The Law, on the other hand, represents what God expects of us in the response of our lives as we live in loving service to his will.*

C **The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart. The commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to our eyes.**

The Decalogue

A *God spoke these words, and said: I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods,*

C **Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.**

P *You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.*

C **Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.**

A *Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*

C **Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.**

P *Honor your father and mother.*

C **Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.**

A *You shall not kill.*

C **Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.**

P *You shall not commit adultery.*

C **Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.**

A *You shall not steal.*

C **Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.**

P *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*

C **Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.**

A *You shall not covet.*

C **Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this commandment.**

The Law of Love

- P** *Jesus summarized the Decalogue into two great commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it; You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets."*
- C** **The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart. The commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to our eyes. Amen.**

Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

- A** *A reading from Numbers. ⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.*
- A** *The word of the Lord.*
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

John 3:14-21

P *The Holy Gospel according to John, the third chapter.*

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

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

P *The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

Meditation

The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr.

Please stand, as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

All Are Welcome

No. 641

During the hymn, the offerings will be presented and the Table prepared.

A *Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.*

A brief silence.

After each portion of the prayers:

A *Hear us, O God.*

C **Your mercy is great.**

The prayers conclude:

P *Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.*

C **Amen.**

P *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

C **And also with you.**

After sharing the peace, please remain standing.

P *The Lord be with you.*

C **And also with you.**

P *Lift up your hearts.*

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P *Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.*

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Send now your Holy Spirit upon these gifts and into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in this holy supper. All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, in the church, forever and ever.

C **Amen.**

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.

P *Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please be seated.

*We welcome to the table all who proclaim Jesus is truly present in the bread and the wine.
(Note: should you prefer, we also offer gluten free wafers and grape juice.)*

Communion

Will You Come and Follow Me

No. 798

After all have communed, please stand, as you are able.

P *The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, and his precious blood,
strengthen us and keep us together in grace.*

C **Amen.**

A *Let us pray. O God,*

C **in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your
presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your
table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with
all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor
the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P *Our almighty and merciful God: Father, + the Son, and the Holy
Spirit, bless and preserve us now and forever*

C **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Take My Life, That I May Be

No. 583

A *Go in peace. Share your bread.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*We welcome and thank William Wood for
leading our music again this evening.*

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Sherman Canapp, OSSD

Ushers

Doyle McCracken

Livestream

Marcy Starbuck