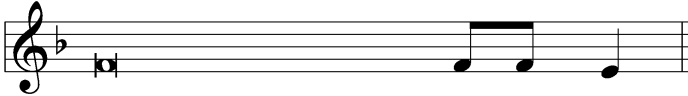


Evening Prayer + Service of Light +

7:00 p.m. Dec 4 and 11, 2024

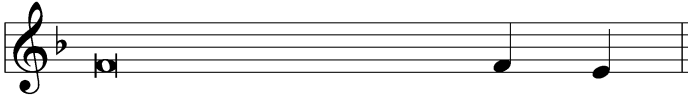
Versicles (Common)

L (sung) Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



C the light no darkness can o - ver - come.

L Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,



C and the day is almost o - ver.

L Let Your light scatter the darkness



C and il - lu - mine Your Church.



Phos Hilaron

L (sung) Joyous light of glory:



C 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 for Light

- I** (sung) Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar 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 merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C A - men.

Sit

+ Psalmody +

Psalm 141

Psalm 141:1-4, 8

- C** (sung) Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
 the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.
- I** (sung) O Lord, I call to You; come to me quickly;
 hear my voice when I cry to You.
- C** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
 the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.
- II** Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,
 and guard the door of my lips.
- I** Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;
 let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.
- II** But my eyes are turned to You, O God;

in You I take refuge.
Strip me not of my life.

C **Glory be 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.**
Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Psalm Prayer

L Let us pray. *Silence for individual prayer may follow.* Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on 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. **C** **Amen.**

Dec 4 Psalm

Psalm 119:129–136; antiphon: v. 129



P Your testimonies are | wonderful;*
therefore my soul | keeps them.

C **The unfolding of Your | words gives light;*
it imparts understanding to the | simple.**
I open my | mouth and pant,*
because I long for Your com- | mandments.
**Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,*
as is Your way with those who | love Your name.**
Keep steady my steps according to Your | promise,*
and let no iniquity get dominion | over me.
**Redeem me from man's op- | pression,*
that I may keep Your | precepts.**
Make Your face shine upon Your | servant,*
and teach me Your | statutes.
**My eyes shed | streams of tears,*
because people do not | keep Your law.**
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**
Your testimonies are | wonderful;*
therefore my soul | keeps them.

Dec 11 Psalm

Psalm 24; antiphon: v. 7



P Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O | ancient doors,*
that the King of glory | may come in.

The earth is the LORD'S and the full- | ness thereof,*
the world and those who | dwell therein,

C for He has founded it up- | on the seas*
and established it upon the | rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill | of the LORD?*

And who shall stand in His | holy place?

He who has clean hands and a | pure heart,*
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear de- | ceitfully.

He will receive blessing | from the LORD*
and righteousness from the God of his sal- | vation.

Such is the generation of those who | seek Him,*
who seek the face of the God of | Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O | ancient doors,*
that the King of glory | may come in.

Who is this King of | glory?*

The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in | battle!

Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O | ancient doors,*
that the King of glory | may come in.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O | ancient doors,*
that the King of glory | may come in.

The earth is the LORD'S and the full- | ness thereof,*
the world and those who | dwell therein.

Dec 4: Office Hymn: 341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (see hymnal)

Dec 11: Office Hymn: 336 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending (see hymnal)

+ Readings +

Dec 4 and 11 First Reading

Isaiah 9:1–2, 6–7

L A reading from Isaiah, chapter 9.

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called

**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L O Lord, have mercy on us. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Dec 4 Second Reading

Romans 11:32–36

P A reading from Romans, the eleventh chapter.

For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

“For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?”

“Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?”

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

P O Lord, have mercy on us. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Dec 11 Second Reading

Titus 2:11–14

L A reading from Titus, chapter 2.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

L O Lord, have mercy on us. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Dec 4 Third Reading

Matthew 7:24–29

L A reading from Matthew, chapter 7.

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

L O Lord, have mercy on us. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Dec 11 Third Reading

John 5:16–18; 8:48–59

L A reading from John, chapter 5.

And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”

This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

L O Lord, have mercy on us. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Final Reading Response

Hebrews 1:1–2a

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.**

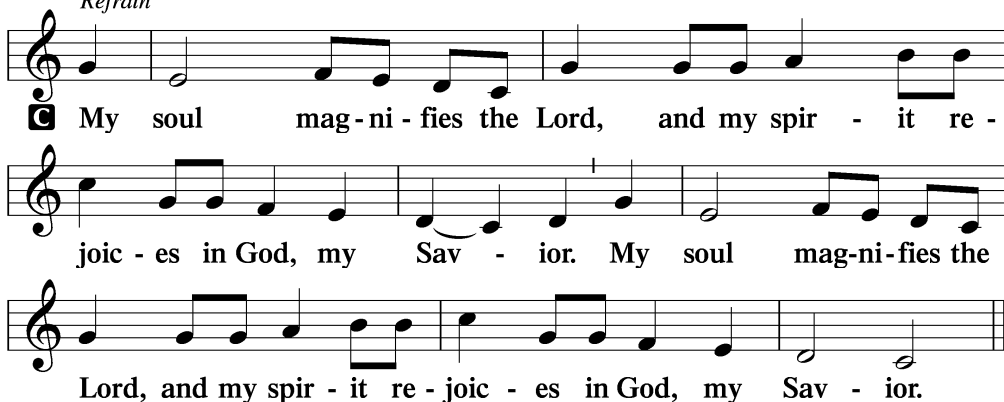
+ Homily +

+ Canticle +

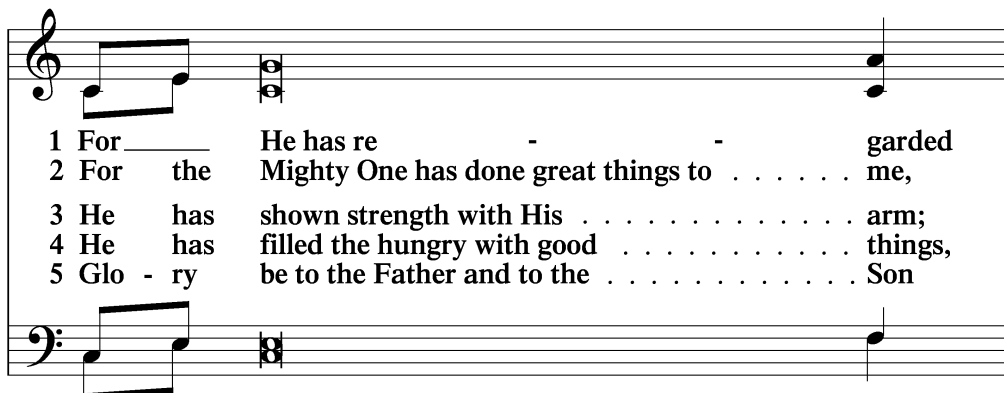
Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

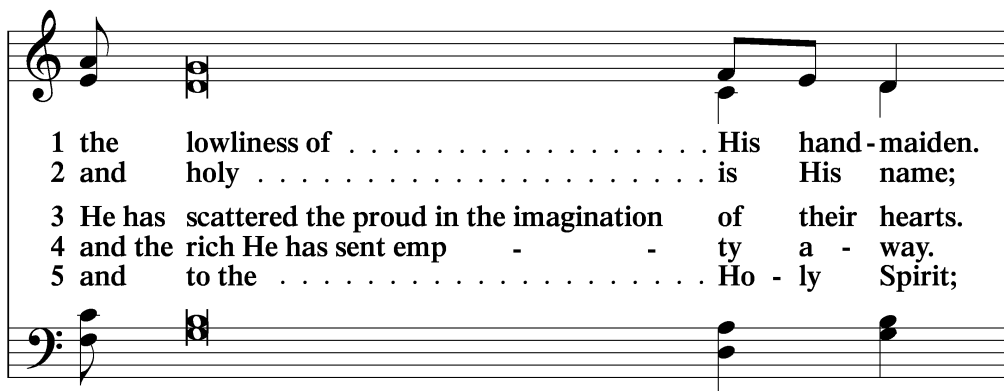
Refrain



My soul mag-ni - fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -
joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag-ni-fies the
Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.



1 For ——— He has re - - - garded
2 For the Mighty One has done great things to me,
3 He has shown strength with His arm;
4 He has filled the hungry with good things,
5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son



1 the lowliness of His hand - maiden.
2 and holy is His name;
3 He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
4 and the rich He has sent emp - - - ty a - way.
5 and to the Ho - ly Spirit;

1 For be - hold, from this day
 2 and His mercy is on those who fear Him
 3 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
 4 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy
 5 as it was in the be - - - - - ginning,

1 all generations will call me blessèd.
 2 from generation to gen - er - ation. *Refrain*
 3 and has exalt - - - - - ed the lowly.
 4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.
 5 is now, and will be forever. A - - - - - men. *Refrain*

+ Prayer +

Kneel/Stand

Litany

The congregation's response may begin just as the leader's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both leader and congregation.



L In peace let us pray to the Lord:



C Lord, have mer - cy.

- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** 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:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For Matthew, Roger, and David, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For Joe [our president] and Donald [president-elect], for Bill [our governor], for all 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 mercy.**
- 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 mercy.**
- 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 mercy.

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 mercy.

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

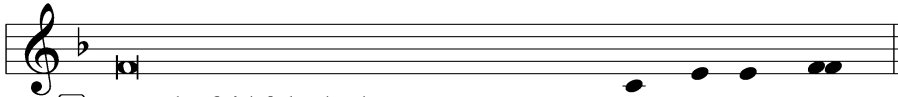
C Lord, have mercy.

L For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*]

. . . let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

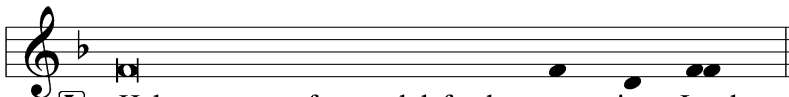
The prayers then continue:



L For the faithful who have gone
before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

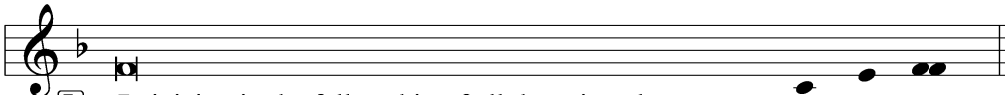


C Al - le - lu - ia.



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

Silence for individual prayer may follow.



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.

Collect for Peace

L (sung) 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 Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Lord's Prayer

L Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.

Benedicamus

[Psalm 103:1]

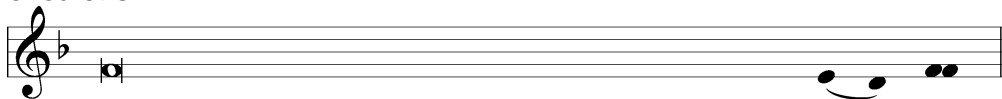


L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction



P The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve you.



C A - men.

Dec 4 Hymn to Depart: 338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven Text and tune: Public domain

Dec 11 Hymn to Depart: 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

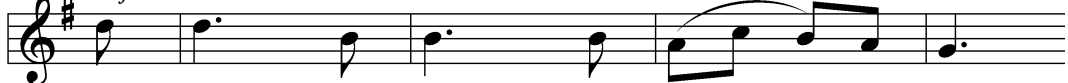


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.
 Tune: French, 15th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

Dec. 4: Advent Midweek, Wonderful Counsellor

Dec. 11: Advent Midweek, Mighty God

Dec. 18: Children's Christmas Service with Bell Choir and Live Nativity

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve with Candlelight Vigil at 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 25: Christmas Day Divine Service at 10:00 a.m.

Acknowledgments

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