

Vespers at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Sunday, August 28, 7:00 p.m.

Welcome to St. Paul's Church.

*We are delighted that you have joined us for evening prayers.
The people assemble. There is a time of silence.*

About the liturgy this evening: Vespers (Evening Prayer) is prayed by the faith community at the evening hour, often associated with the setting of the sun. There is a basic formula to the service. The Cantors sing one or more Psalms, songs from the Hebrew Scriptures, during which our minds meditate on words and ideas that come to us. Christian faith always looks backwards into its roots and forward to God's action. This is represented by two readings and the responses to them. The first reading is from the Old Testament the books recording God's dealing with his ancient people the Jews. Theirs is the tradition into which Jesus was born. In response we sing *Magnificat*, the song of Jesus' mother, Mary, which affirms God's work in history. The second reading is from the New Testament and is a story or passage of teaching from Jesus or the first Christians. We respond with *Nunc Dimittis*, a song that recognizes that in Jesus' coming God keeps his promise to the whole world. In the Creed we affirm that Christian faith is founded on this story and we offer further (sung) prayers.

Stand

HYMN

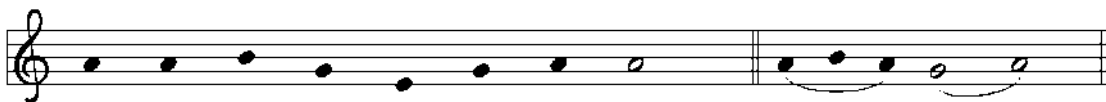
O Radiant Light, O Sun Divine (ELW 562)



1 O ra - diant Light, O Sun di - vine of God the Fa - ther's
2 O Son of God, the source of life, praise is your due by
3 Lord Je - sus Christ, as day - light fades, as shine the lights of



death - less face, O im - age of the Light sub - lime
night and day. Our hap - py lips must raise the strain
e - ven - tide, we praise the Fa - ther with the Son,



that fills the heav'n - ly dwell - ing place:
of your es - teemed and splen - did name.
the Spir - it blest, and with them one. A - men.

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

We praise and thank you, O God, through you Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom you have enlightened us by revealing the light that never fades.

Night is falling and day's allotted span draws to a close.

The daylight which you created for our pleasure has fully satisfied us, and yet, of your free gift, now the evening lights do not fail us.

We praise you and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; through him be glory, honor, and power to you in the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. **Amen.**

Sit

PSALMODY Psalm 141 1-4a, 8-9 *spoken responsively by half-verse*

¹ O LORD, I call to you; come | to me quickly;*

hear my voice when I | cry to you.

² Let my prayer be set forth in your | sight as incense;*

the lifting up of my hands as the | evening sacrifice.

³ Set a watch before my mouth, O LORD, and guard the door | of my lips;*

let not my heart incline to any | evil thing.

⁴ Let me not be occupied in wickedness with | evildoers;*

Nor eat of their choice foods.

⁸ But my eyes are turned to | you, Lord GOD;*

in you I take refuge; do not strip me | of my life.

⁹ Protect me from the snare which they have | laid for me*

and from the traps of the | evildoers.

Silence for meditation.

PSALM PRAYER

Lord, from the rising of the sun to its setting your name is worthy of all praise. Let our prayer rise before you as incense, and may the lifting up of our hands be as an evening sacrifice, acceptable to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

PSALM 66 *Spoken responsively by whole verse*

¹ Be joyful in God, | all you lands;*

sing the glory of his name; sing the glory | of his praise.

² **Say to God, "How awesome | are your deeds!***

Because of your great strength your enemies | cringe before you.

³ All the earth bows | down before you;*

sings to you, sings | out your name."

⁴ **Come now and see the | works of God;***

how wonderful he is in his doing | toward all people.

⁵ He turned the sea into dry land, so that they went through the wat- | er on foot;*

and there we re- | joiced in him.

⁶ **In his might he rules forever; his eyes keep watch o- | ver the nations;***

let no rebel rise | up against him.

- ⁷ Bless our | God, you peoples;*
make the voice of his praise | to be heard,
⁸ **who holds our | souls in life,***
and will not allow our | feet to slip.
- ⁹ For you, O | God, have proved us;*
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.
- ¹⁰ **You brought us in- | to the snare;***
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.
- ¹¹ You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water,*
but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.
- ¹² **I will enter your house with burnt-offerings and will pay | you my vows,***
which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trou-
ble.
- ¹³ I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the | smoke of rams;*
I will give you ox- | en and goats.
- ¹⁴ **Come and listen, all you | who fear God,***
and I will tell you what he has | done for me.
- ¹⁵ I called out to him | with my mouth,*
and his praise was | on my tongue.
- ¹⁶ **If I had found evil | in my heart,***
the Lord would | not have heard me;
- ¹⁷ but in truth | God has heard me;*
he has attended to the voice | of my prayer.
- ¹⁸ **Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,***
nor withheld his | love from me.

Silence for meditation.

PSALM PRAYER

Almighty Father, you brought us through the waters of baptism to the shores of new life. Accept the sacrifice of our lives, and let us enter your house, there to praise your unfailing power and love, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

READING Judges 6:1-24

¹The Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD gave them into the hand of Midian seven years. ²The hand of Midian prevailed over Israel; and because of Midian the Israelites provided for themselves hiding places in the mountains, caves and strongholds. ³For whenever the Israelites put in seed, the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the east would come up against them. ⁴They would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the land, as far as the neighborhood of Gaza, and leave no sustenance in Israel, and no sheep or ox or donkey. ⁵For they and their livestock would come up, and they would even bring their tents, as thick as locusts; neither they nor their camels could be counted; so they wasted the land as they came in. ⁶Thus Israel was greatly impoverished because of Midian; and the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help. ⁷When the Israelites cried to the LORD on account of the Midianites, ⁸the LORD sent a prophet to the Israelites; and he said to them, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel:



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Sit

READING 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹As it is written,

"He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever."

¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

A time of silence follows the reading.

Stand

NUNC DIMITTIS *Now, Lord, You Let Your Servant Go in Peace*



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre - pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re - veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE LITANY

Following each petition the congregation responds “Lord, have mercy.”

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, *let us pray to the Lord*

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.*

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, *let us pray to the Lord.*

For Elizabeth and James our bishops, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, *let us pray to the Lord.*

For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthen in every good deed, *let us pray to the Lord.*

For those who work to bring peace, justice, health and protection in this and every place, *let us pray to the Lord.*

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.*

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, *let us pray to the Lord.*

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

For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, *let us pray to the Lord.*

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

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 commandment; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever. **Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

HYMN

Praise and Thanksgiving (LBW 409)

1 Praise and thanks-giv-ing, God, we would of-fer for all things
 2 God, bless the la-bor we bring to serve you, that with our
 3 Fa-ther, pro-vid-ing food for your chil-dren, by Wis-dom's
 4 Then will your bless-ing reach ev-ry peo-ple, free-ly con-

liv-ing, you have made good: har-vest of sown fields, fruits of the
 neigh-bor we may be fed. Sow-ing or till-ing, we would work
 guid-ing teach us to share one with an-oth-er, so that, re-
 less-ing your gra-cious hand. Where you are reign-ing, no one will

or-chard, hay from the mown fields, blos-som and wood.
 with you, har-vest-ing, mill-ing for dai-ly bread.
 joic-ing with us, all oth-ers may know your care.
 hun-ger; your love sus-tain-ing show-ers the land.

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us. **Amen.**

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