

# Wednesday Evening Prayer

## Vespers Worship Service



*Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church*

*7PM, Sanctuary  
February 25, 2026*



**L** Joy-ous light of glo - ry: **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.

**L** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

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

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

**L** Blessed 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** Amen

## Psalm 141

**P** Let my prayer rise before you as incense;  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

**C** O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly;  
hear my voice when I cry to you.

Let my prayer rise before you as incense;  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,  
and guard the door of my lips.

Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;  
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.

But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God;  
in you I take refuge. Strip me not of my life.

Glory 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.

**P** Let my prayer rise before you as incense;  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

**C** Glory 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

*Silence for meditation.*

**L** Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before you, O Lord, and let your lovingkindness descend upon 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 and ever.

**C** Amen



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love;  
 2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r;  
 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy;  
 4 Three per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace,



re - new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.  
 from fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.  
 bap - tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.  
 that we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: POTSDAM, Mercer, *Church Psalter*, 1854

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## The First Lesson

## Exodus 24:12-18

*A reading from the book of Exodus, beginning with the twenty-fourth chapter.*

<sup>12</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." <sup>13</sup> So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God.

<sup>14</sup> And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them."

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup> The glory of the LORD dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. <sup>17</sup> Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of

Israel. <sup>18</sup> Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## The Second Lesson

**1 Kings 19:3-8**

*A reading from the book of First Kings, beginning with the nineteenth chapter.*

<sup>3</sup> Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

<sup>4</sup> But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers." <sup>5</sup> And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." <sup>6</sup> And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. <sup>7</sup> And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you." <sup>8</sup> And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## The Holy Gospel

Matthew 12:38-50

☒ In many and various ways God spoke to his people of old by the prophets.

☑ **But now in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.**

*A reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew, beginning with the twelfth chapter.*

<sup>38</sup> Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." <sup>39</sup> But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. <sup>40</sup> For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. <sup>41</sup> The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. <sup>42</sup> The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.

<sup>43</sup> "When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. <sup>44</sup> Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. <sup>45</sup> Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation."

<sup>46</sup> While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. <sup>48</sup> But he replied to the man who told him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" <sup>49</sup> And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>50</sup> For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

**☩** My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed.  
The Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel,  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children forever.  
Glory 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

### *THE LITANY*

**℣** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**☩** Lord, have mercy.

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

**☩** Lord, have mercy.

**℣** 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.

**☩** Lord, have mercy.

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

**☩** Lord, have mercy.

☒ For *Bishop Dan Selbo, General Secretary Amy Little, Seminary President Jukka Kääriäinen, Deans Jim Neal & Chip Frontz*, for our *Pastor Justin Baker* in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

☑ **Lord, have mercy.**

☒ For our 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.

☑ **Lord, have mercy.**

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

☑ **Lord, have mercy.**

☒ 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.

☑ **Lord, have mercy.**

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

☑ **Lord, have mercy.**

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

☑ **Lord, have mercy.**

☒ For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us give thanks to the Lord.

☑ **To you, O Lord.**

☒ Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*Silence for meditation.*

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

☩ **To you, O 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 commandments; 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**

℣ Let us bless the Lord.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

## OFFERING

*Wednesday Offerings are being given to Loaves & Fishes throughout Lent.*

*God Loved the World So That He Gave*

*Setting George Elvey (1816-1893)*

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with  
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
 in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with  
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.  
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version  
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