

# Wednesday Evening Prayer

## Vespers Worship Service



*Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church*

*7PM, Sanctuary*

*March 4, 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.

**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

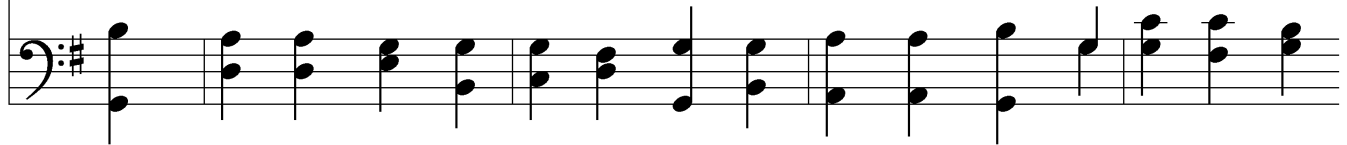
*Silence for meditation.*

**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.

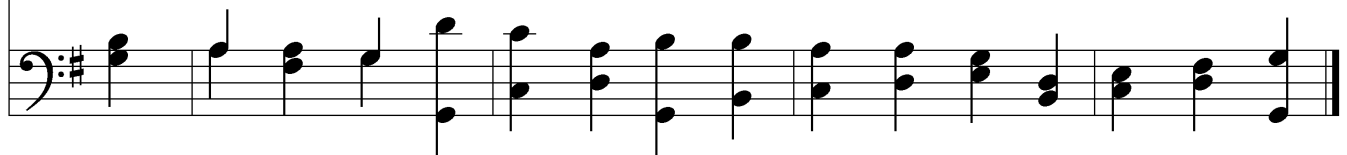
**C** Amen



1 All praise to thee, my God, this night for all the bless-ings of the light.  
 2 For - give me, Lord, for thy dear Son, the ill that I this day have done;  
 3 Teach me to live, that I may dread the grave as lit - tle as my bed.  
 4 Oh, may my soul in thee re - pose, and may sweet sleep mine eye-lids close,  
 5 Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;



Keep me, oh, keep me, King of kings, be - neath thine own al - might - y wings.  
 that with the world, my - self, and thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.  
 Teach me to die, that so I may rise glo - rious at the awe - some day.  
 sleep that shall me more vig -'rous make to serve my God when I a - wake!  
 praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Music: TALLIS' CANON, Thomas Tallis, c. 1505–1585

## The First Lesson

Esther 13:8-11, 15-17

*A reading from the book of Esther, beginning with the thirteenth chapter.*

<sup>8</sup>But Mardochai besought the Lord, remembering all his works,

<sup>9</sup>And said: O Lord, Lord, almighty king, for all things are in thy power, and there is none that can resist thy will, if thou determine to save Israel.

<sup>10</sup>Thou hast made heaven and earth, and all things that are under the cope of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>Thou art Lord of all, and there is none that can resist thy majesty.

<sup>15</sup> And now, O Lord, O king, O God of Abraham, have mercy on thy people, because our enemies resolve to destroy us, and extinguish thy inheritance.

<sup>16</sup> Despise not thy portion, which thou hast redeemed for thyself out of Egypt.

<sup>17</sup> Hear my supplication, and be merciful to thy lot and inheritance, and turn our mourning into joy, that we may live and praise thy name, O Lord, and shut not the mouths of them that sing to thee.

℣ The Word of the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God.

℣ The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:

☞ O come, let us adore him.

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; \*

let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*

and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God \*

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the depths of the earth, \*

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, \*

and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship and fall down, \*

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God, \*

and we are the people of his pasture,

and the sheep of his hand.

Today, if you will hear his voice, harden not your hearts \*

as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness,

When your fathers tested me, \*

and put me to the proof, though they had seen my works.

**Forty years long was I grieved with this generation and said, \***

**“It is a people that err in their hearts, for they have not known my ways,”**

**Of whom I swore in my wrath \***

**that they should not enter into my rest.**

☐ **The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:**

☑ **O come, let us adore him.**

## **The Holy Gospel**

**Matthew 20:17-28**

☐ **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 twentieth chapter.*

<sup>17</sup> And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, <sup>18</sup> “See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death <sup>19</sup> and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.”

<sup>20</sup> Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. <sup>21</sup> And he said to her, “What do you want?” She said to him, “Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.” <sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?” They said to him, “We are able.” <sup>23</sup> He said to them, “You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.” <sup>24</sup> And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers. <sup>25</sup> But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great

among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, <sup>28</sup> even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

**☩ 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: Sursum Corda*

*Setting William Carl (1865-1936)*

*Our Lenten Designated Offering is Loaves and Fishes.*

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the  
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that  
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and  
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

