

Prayer at the Close of the Day

Wednesday Compline Service



Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Sanctuary
7PM, December 17, 2025*

PRELUDE

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Setting Gordon Young (1919-1998)

P In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

³⁵ Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— ³⁶ lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.

P The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

C Amen

P It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

C to sing praise to your name, O Most High;

P to herald your love in the morning

C your truth at the close of the day.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P Holy and gracious God,

C I confess that I have sinned against you this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me, that I may rest in peace.

P By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven. We rest now in his peace and rise in the morning to serve him.

♩ = 100

1. In the bleak mid - - win - - ter, frost - - y wind made moan,
 2. Our God, Heav'n can - not hold Him, nor _____ earth sus - - tain;
 3. E - - nough for Him, whom cher - u - bim, wor - - ship night and day,
 4. An - gels and arch - - an - - gels may have ga - thered there,
 5. What _____ can I give Him, poor _____ as I am?

Earth stood hard as i - - - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 Heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when He comes to reign.
 Breast - - ful of milk, and a man - ger - ful of hay; En -
 Cher - u - bim and ser - - a - phim thronged _____ the air;
 If I were a shep - - - herd, I would bring a lamb;

Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow on snow,
 In the bleak mid - - win - - ter a sta - ble place suf - - ficed
 ough for Him, whom an - - - gels fall _____ down be - - fore,
 But His mo - ther on - - - ly, in her mai - den bliss,
 If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;

In the bleak mid - - win - - ter, long a - - go.
 The Lord God Al - - migh - - ty, Je - - - sus Christ.
 Ox and ass and ca - - mel which a - - dore.
 Wor - shipped the be - - lov - - ed with a kiss.
 Yet what can I give Him: give my heart.

THE LESSONS

THE FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 2:2-5

² It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,
³ and many peoples shall come, and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”
For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.
⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD.

P Here ends the reading.

C Amen

ISAIAH 7:10-15 (read responsively by verse)

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz:

¹¹ “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.”

¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test."

¹³ **And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?"**

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

¹⁵ **He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.**

Praise to Yahweh, the God of Israel! From everlasting and unto everlasting. Amen! Yes! Amen!

THE HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 1:26-38a

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy — the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

☐ Here ends the reading.

☑ Amen

Of the Father's Love Begotten

LH 98

1 Tim. 3: 16

8. 7. 8. 7. 8. 7. 7.

Corde natus ex Parentis

Aurelius C. Prudentius, 413, cento

Tr., John. M. Neale, 1854 and Henry W. Baker, 1861

Divinum mysterium

Plain-song tune, 12th century

1 Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be - gan to be,
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed When the Vir - gin, full of grace,
 3 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His prais-es sing;
 4 This is He whom Heav'ntaught sing - ers Sang of old with one ac - cord;

He is Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the Source, the End - ing He,
 By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bare the Sav - ior of our race,
 Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him And ex - tol our God and King.
 Whom the Scriptures of the proph - ets Promised in their faith - ful word.

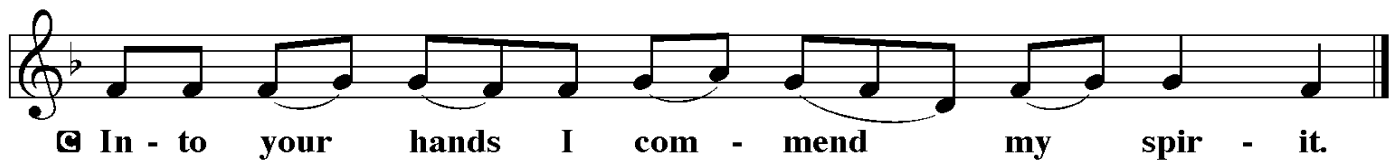
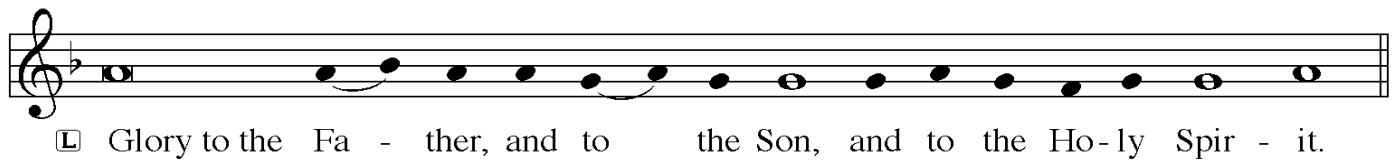
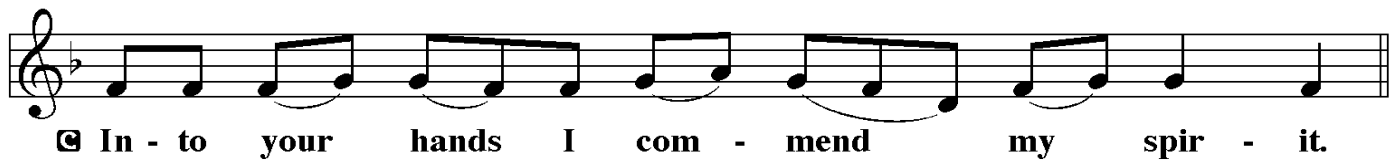
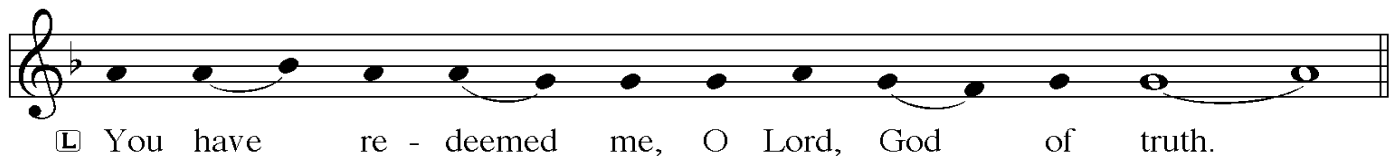
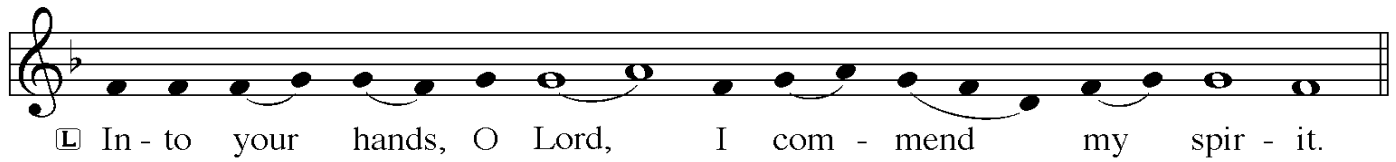
Of the things that are, that have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
 And the Babe, the world's Re - deem - er, First revealed His sa - cred face
 Let no tongue on earth be si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 Now He shines, the Long - ex - pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord

Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
 And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
 Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
 And unending praises be,

Honor, glory, and dominion,
 And eternal victory
 Evermore and evermore.

THE RESPONSE



O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

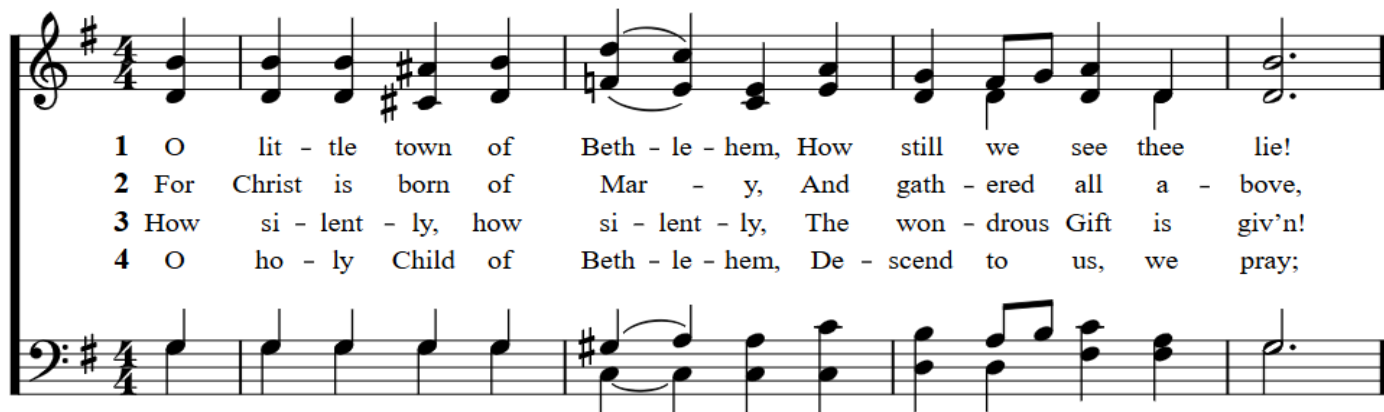
LH 647

Micah 5: 2

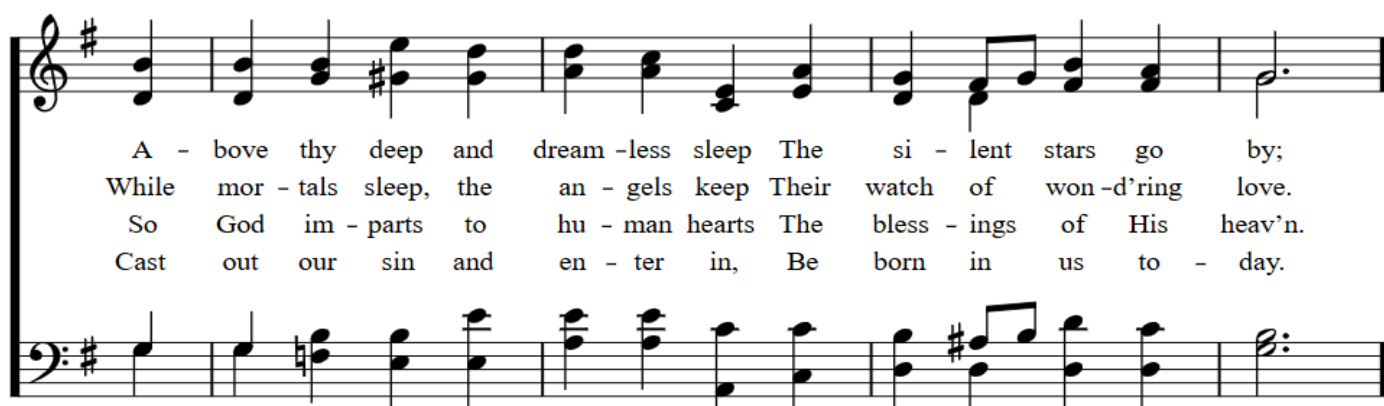
Phillips Brooks, 1868, ab.

St. Louis

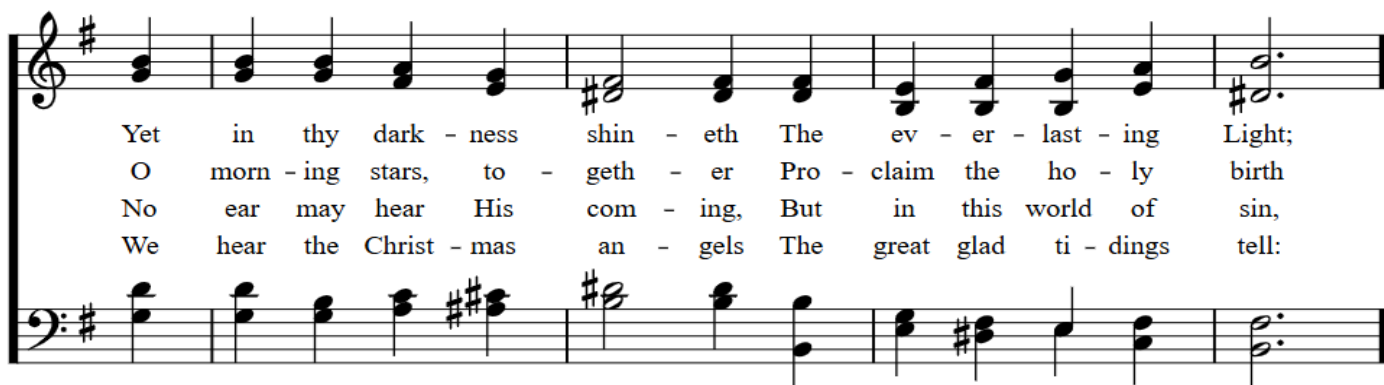
Lewis Henry Redner, 1868



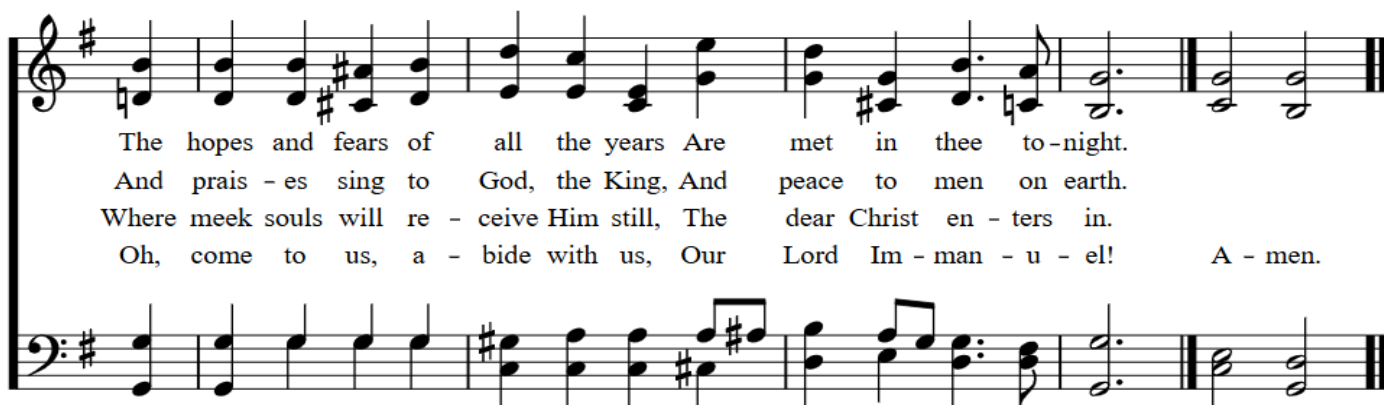
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The won - drous Gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
 Cast out our sin and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark - ness shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth
 No ear may hear His com - ing, But in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad ti - dings tell:



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 And prais - es sing to God, the King, And peace to men on earth.
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him still, The dear Christ en - ters in.
 Oh, come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el! A - men.

THE PRAYERS

- L** Hear my prayer, O Lord;
- C** **listen to my cry.**
- L** Keep me as the apple of your eye;
- C** **hide me in the shadow of your wings.**
- L** In righteousness I shall see you;
- C** **when I awake, your presence will give me joy.**
- L** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For all those who are lonely, desolate, hurting, and ill, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For all those in poverty, imprisonment, sin, and darkness, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For all those who will gather with friend and family in celebration, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For all those for whom we offer now our prayers, either silently or aloud:

~ A period of time is given for names to be offered to the Lord in prayer ~

Let us pray to the Lord.

- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

L 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.

C Amen

L Gracious Lord, we give you thanks for the day, especially for the good we were permitted to give and to receive; the day is now past and we commit it to you. We entrust to you the night; we rest in surety, for you are our help, and you neither slumber nor sleep.

C Amen

**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 Peace is my parting gift to you, my own peace, such as the world cannot give. Set your troubled hearts at rest, and banish your fears.
(John 14:27)

Humble yourselves under God's mighty hand and he will lift you up in due time. Cast all your cares on him, for you are his charge. Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith.
(1 Peter 5:6-9a)



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
 2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be;
 3 O Zi - on's Daugh - ter, rise To meet thy low - ly King,
 4 As Judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain

And we must hymns of wel-come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
 Him - self a serv - ant's form puts on To set His serv - ants free.
 Nor let thy faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.
 And His true mem bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign. A - men.

5 Before the dawning day
 Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
 The old man all be put away,
 The new man all put on.

6 All glory to the Son,
 Who comes to set us free,
 With Father, Spirit, ever One,
 Through all eternity.

- ☐ Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.
- ☐ Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.
- ☑ **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**
- ☐ Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.
- ☐ The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.
- ☑ **Amen**

The congregation exits the sanctuary.

POSTLUDE

O Blessed Emmanuel

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

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