

# Wednesday Evening Prayer

## Vespers Worship Service



*Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church*

*7PM, Sanctuary*

*March 11, 2026*



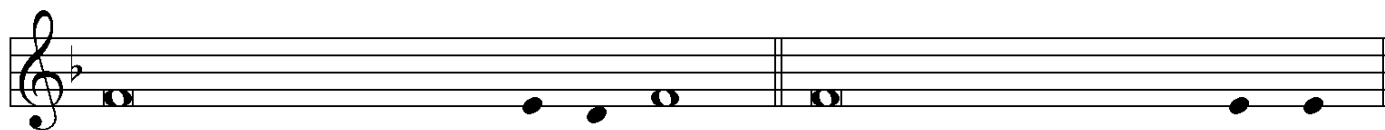
# Prelude

*A Way to Calvary Leadeth*

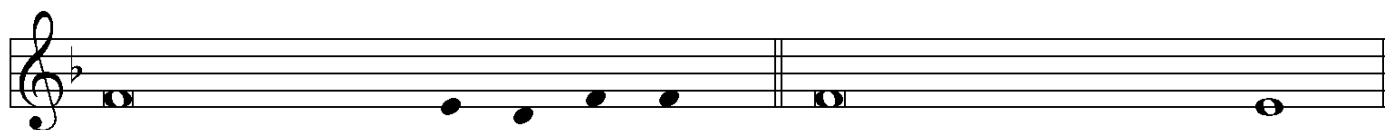
Dale Wood (1934-2003)

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

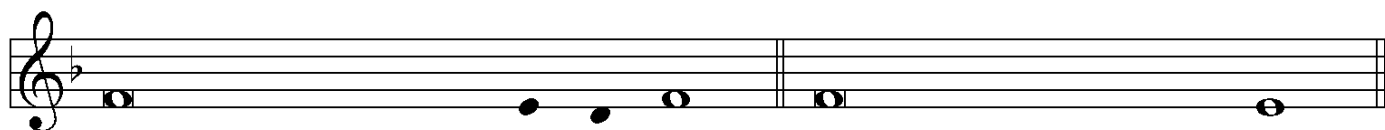
**C** Amen



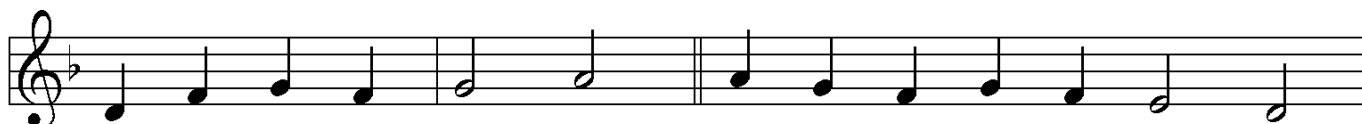
**L** Behold, now is the accept - ab - le time;      **C** now is the day of sal - va - tion.



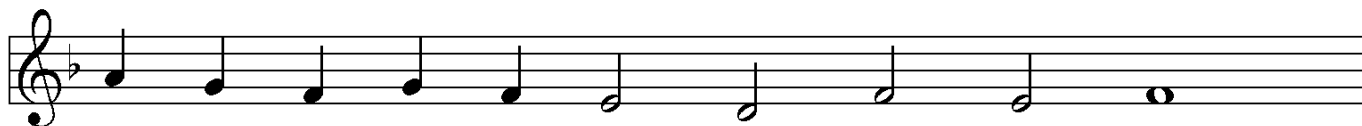
**L** Turn us again,  
O God of our sal - va - tion,      **C** that the light  
of your face may shine on us.



**L** May your justice shine like the sun;      **C** and may the poor be lifted up.



**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.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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.

Amen

### Psalm 141

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

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.

**G** **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.

**G Amen**

THE HYMN | Abide with Me

LBW 272

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
2 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
3 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.  
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!  
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

## The First Lesson

Exodus 20:12-24a

*A reading from the book of Exodus, beginning with the twentieth chapter.*

<sup>12</sup> "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup> "You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup> "You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup> "You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup> "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup> "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

<sup>18</sup> Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off <sup>19</sup> and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die." <sup>20</sup> Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin." <sup>21</sup> The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

<sup>22</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the people of Israel: 'You have seen for yourselves that I have talked with you from heaven. <sup>23</sup> You shall not make gods of silver to be with me, nor shall you make for yourselves gods of gold. <sup>24</sup> An altar of earth you shall make for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I cause my name to be remembered I will come to you and bless you.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **Venite**

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

**C** 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 15:1-20**

☐ 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 fifteenth chapter.*

Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, <sup>2</sup>“Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat.” <sup>3</sup>He answered them, “And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? <sup>4</sup>For God commanded, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ <sup>5</sup>But you say, ‘If anyone tells his father or his mother, “What you would have gained from me is given to God,” <sup>6</sup>he need not honor his father.’ So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. <sup>7</sup>You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said:

<sup>8</sup> *“This people honors me with their lips,*

*but their heart is far from me;*

<sup>9</sup> *in vain do they worship me,*

*teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”*

<sup>10</sup> And he called the people to him and said to them, “Hear and understand:

<sup>11</sup> it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.” <sup>12</sup> Then the disciples came and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?” <sup>13</sup> He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not

planted will be rooted up. <sup>14</sup>Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit." <sup>15</sup>But Peter said to him, "Explain the parable to us." <sup>16</sup>And he said, "Are you also still without understanding? <sup>17</sup>Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? <sup>18</sup>But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. <sup>19</sup>For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. <sup>20</sup>These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone."

**☩ 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.**

*Our Lenten Designated Offering is Loaves and Fishes.*

Hymn | Dearest Jesus at Your Word

ELW 520

1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -  
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est  
3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from  
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and

gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,  
God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;  
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:

and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -  
fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and  
help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and  
all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on

es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.  
all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.  
songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.  
earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

