

# Wednesday Evening Prayer

## Vespers Worship Service

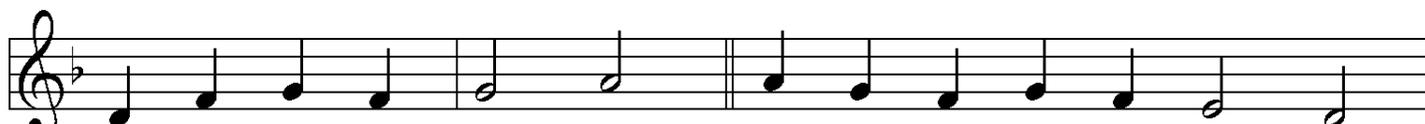


*Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church*

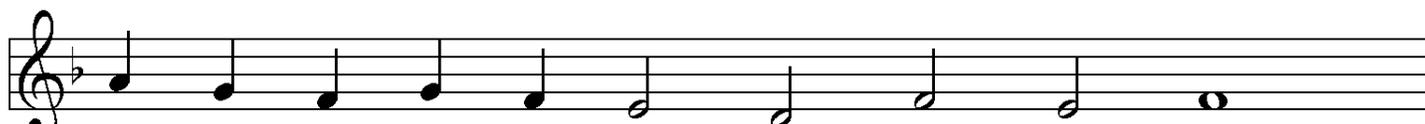
*7PM, Sanctuary*

*March 18, 2026*





☐ Joy-ous light of glo - ry: ☑ 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.*

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.

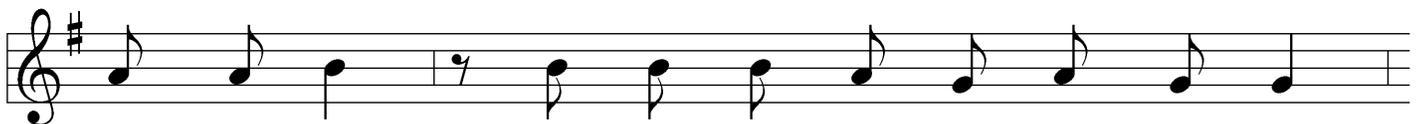
**Amen**

THE HYMN | To You, Before the Close of Day

LBW 278



1 To you, be - fore the close of day, Cre - a - tor of the  
2 From e - vil dreams de - fend our sight, from all the ter - rors  
3 O Fa - ther, this we ask be done through Je - sus Christ, your



world, we pray! Your grace and peace to us al - low  
of the night, from all de - lud - ing thoughts that creep  
on - ly Son, who with the Ho - ly Ghost and you



and be our guard and keep - er now.  
on heed - less minds dis - armed by sleep.  
shall live and reign all a - ges through. A - men

Text: compline office hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, adapt.  
Music: JAMLUCIS, Benedictine plainsong, mode VI

## The First Lesson

Ezekiel 36:23-28

*A reading from the book of Ezekiel, beginning with the thirty-sixth chapter.*

<sup>23</sup> And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. <sup>24</sup> I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. <sup>25</sup> I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. <sup>26</sup> And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. <sup>28</sup> You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

℣ The Word of the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

## Venite

℣ 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 Second Lesson

Isaiah 1:16-19

<sup>16</sup> Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;  
remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes;  
cease to do evil,  
<sup>17</sup> learn to do good;  
seek justice,  
correct oppression;  
bring justice to the fatherless,  
plead the widow's cause.  
<sup>18</sup> “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:  
though your sins are like scarlet,  
they shall be as white as snow;  
though they are red like crimson,  
they shall become like wool.

<sup>19</sup> If you are willing and obedient,  
you shall eat the good of the land.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

## The Holy Gospel

John 9:1-38

📖 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. John, beginning with the ninth chapter.*

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.

<sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup> Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud <sup>7</sup> and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

<sup>8</sup> The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup> Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup> So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup> He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup> They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.

<sup>14</sup> Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.

<sup>15</sup> So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." <sup>16</sup> Some of

the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. <sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup> The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup> and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup> His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. <sup>21</sup> But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup> (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him.")

<sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup> He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup> They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup> He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup> And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup> The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. <sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup> They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup> He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." <sup>38</sup> He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

**☞ 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: In the Silence of the Garden      Setting Roger Wilson (1912-1988)*  
*Our Lenten Designated Offering is Loaves and Fishes.*

Hymn | O Light Whose Splendor Thrills

WOV 728

1 O Light whose splen - dor thrills and glad - dens  
 2 As twi - light hov - ers near at sun - set,  
 3 In all life's bril - liant, time - less mo - ments,

with ra - diance bright - er than the sun,  
 and lamps are lit, and chil - dren nod,  
 let faith - ful voic - es sing your praise,

pure gleam of God's un - end - ing glo - ry,  
 in eve - ning hymns we lift our voic - es  
 O Son of God, our life - be - stow - er,

O Je - sus, blest A - noint - ed One:  
 to Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son, one God.  
 whose glo - ry light - ens end - less days.

Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent.; para. Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944  
 Music: ST. CLEMENT, Clement C. Scholefield, 1839-1904  
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## **Holy Week at Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

**Palm Sunday** (March 29<sup>th</sup>): Worship at 10:15AM

**Maundy Thursday** (April 2<sup>nd</sup>): Worship at 7PM

**Good Friday** (April 3<sup>rd</sup>): Worship at 7PM

**Holy Saturday** (April 4<sup>th</sup>): Stations of the Cross available 9:30AM-11:30AM,

Easter Vigil Service at 8PM

**Easter Sunday** (April 5<sup>th</sup>): Breakfast at 9AM, Worship at 10:15AM