

# Wednesday Evening Prayer

## Vespers Worship Service

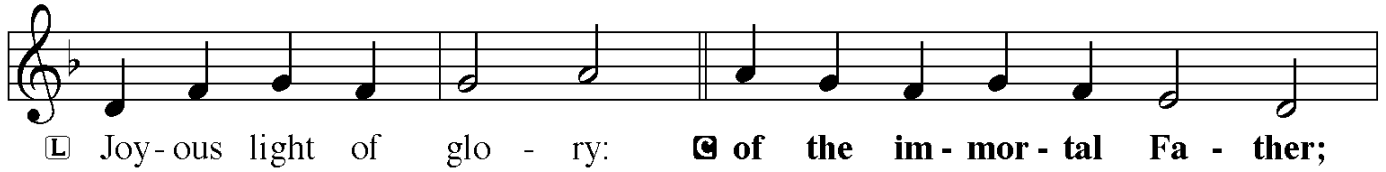


*Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church*

*7PM, Sanctuary*

*March 25, 2026*





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

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

**G** 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 | Hark the Glad Sound!

ELW 239

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

# The First Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-15

*A reading from the book of Isaiah, beginning with the seventh chapter.*

<sup>10</sup> Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: <sup>11</sup> "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup> And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Hymn | Wait for the Lord

ELW 262

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

The first line of the hymn is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." The music ends with a double bar line and a sharp sign.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The second line of the hymn is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!" The music ends with a double bar line and a sharp sign.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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## 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

Hebrews 10:4-10

<sup>4</sup>For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body have you prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,  
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

<sup>8</sup>When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup> then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second.

<sup>10</sup> And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## The Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

☐ 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. Luke, beginning with the first chapter.*

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

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

<sup>35</sup>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. <sup>36</sup>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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>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.

**☞ 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.**

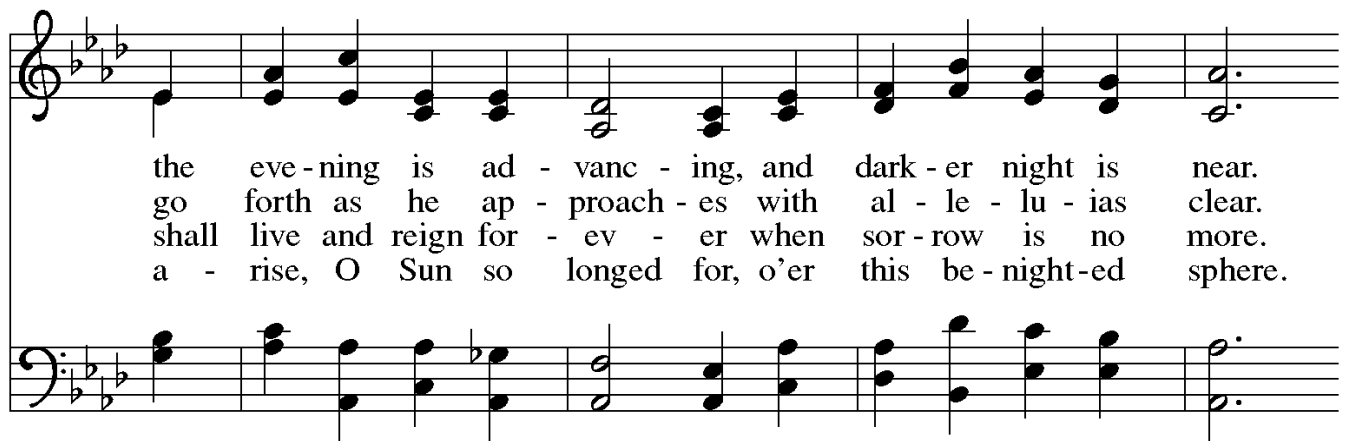
*OFFERING: Go To Dark Gethsemane*

*Arr. Wilbur Held (1914-2015)*

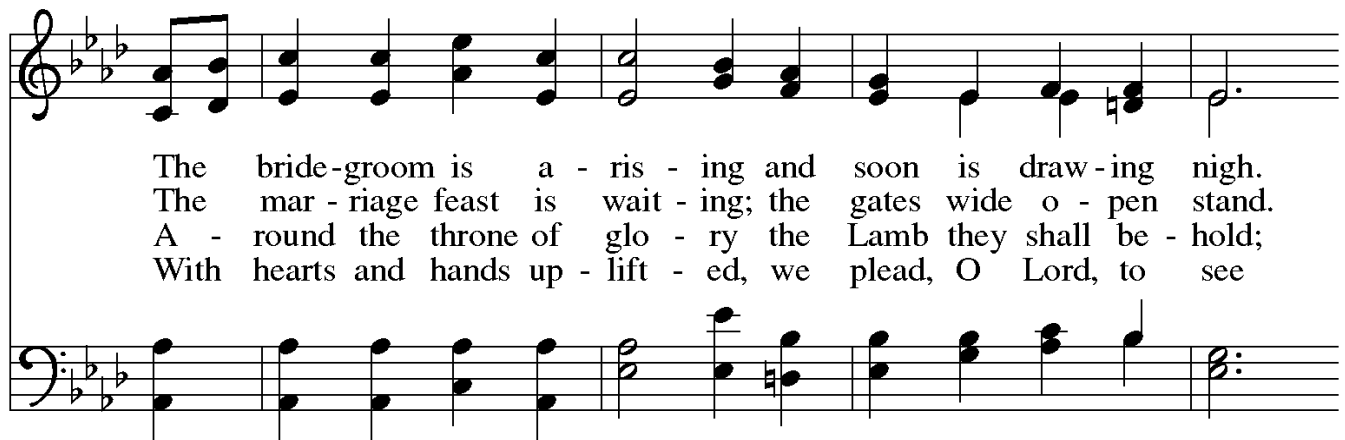
*Our Lenten Designated Offering is Loaves and Fishes.*



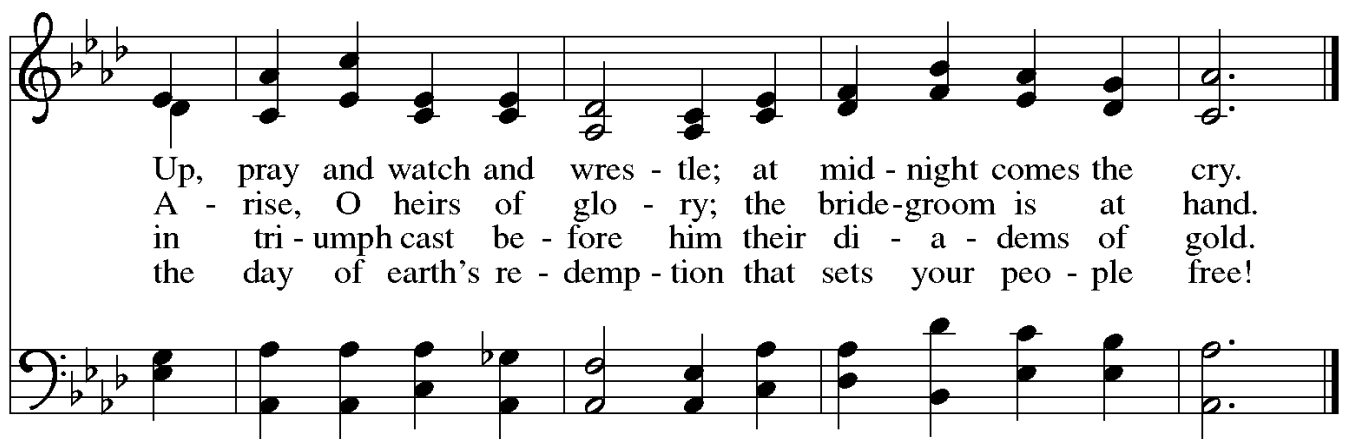
1 Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!



## **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