



## Midweek Advent Worship

Service of Holden Evening Prayer

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

We are a people of the word. We encounter the living God in the incarnate Word Jesus Christ, in the word proclaimed in preaching and declared in forgiveness, and in the written word of scripture that holds before us the unfolding story of God's matchless grace. In practice this often means we are also a people of many *words*.

There are times, however, when we may be nourished by simpler fare — where the words spoken aloud are few, and the silence surrounding them calls forth the prayer of those gathered.

The quiet character of Advent with its themes of listening, waiting, and expectation lends itself perfectly to this rite. The theme of our readings embraces the darkness of these long Advent nights as a place where we encounter the beauty and mystery of God. While darkness has sometimes been used as negative foil for light, contrasting evil with good or God's absence with God's presence, our scripture tonight is filled with imagery in which the darkness is filled with the glory of God.

*If you would like to use your Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW), the page numbers are provided.*

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\* Our Bible readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version, covered under AF license number SB157842.

*As you gather in your homes, you may begin by lighting a candle by which you may better appreciate the darkness. If you would like, you may light more candles from it during the Hymn of Light.*

*Leader:*



Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

*All:*



the light no darkness can o - ver - come;

*Leader:*



Stay with us now, for it is evening,

*All:*



and the day is al - most over.

*Leader:*



Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

*All:*



and shine within your peo - ple here. —

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.



1. Joy - ous light of heav - 'nly glo - ry, lov - ing  
2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the  
3. You who made the heav - en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry



glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's  
blaz - ing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and  
danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle



sto - ry, shine on ev - 'ry land and race. Now as  
wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that  
jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y



eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to  
fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry  
God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our



you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and  
soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us  
way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us

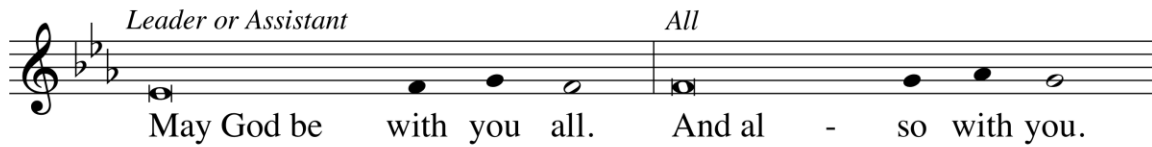


light our hearts a - new. \_\_\_\_\_  
free and make us whole. \_\_\_\_\_  
on to end - less day. \_\_\_\_\_

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

*Silence for meditation*

## Evening Thanksgiving



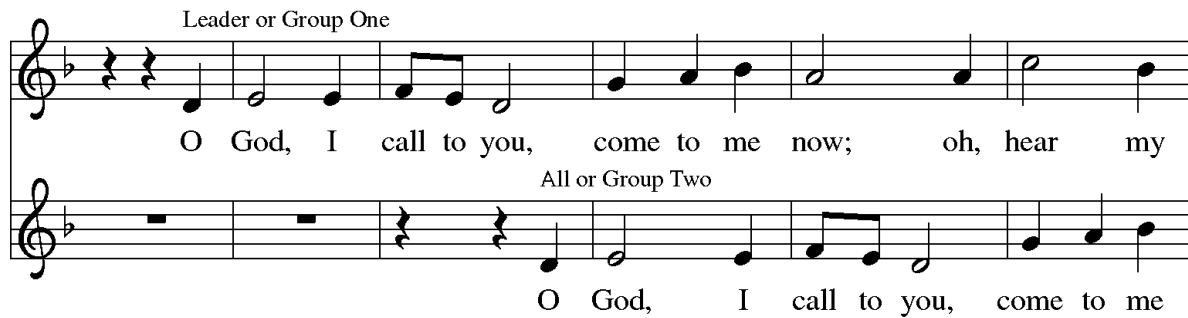
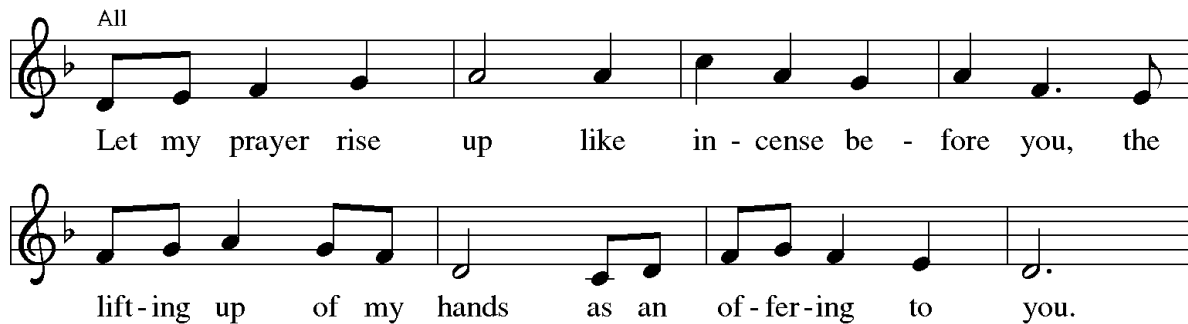
*Leader* Blessed are you, Creator of the universe, from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.



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*Lighting of incense (if available within each setting)*

Psalm 141



in - cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an  
up like in - cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my

of-fer-ing to you. Keep watch with - in me, God;  
hands as an of-fer-ing to you. Keep

deep in my heart may the light of your love be burn - ing  
watch with - in me, God; deep in my heart may the light of your

bright. Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -  
love be burn - ing bright. Let my prayer rise up like

fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to  
in - cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an

you. All praise to the God of all— Cre - a - tor of  
of-fer-ing to you. All praise to the

life; all praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of love.  
 God of all— Cre - a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the  
 Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the  
 Spir - it of love. Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -  
 lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to you.  
 fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to you.

Text: *Holden Evening Prayer*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 141

Music: Marty Haugen

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*Silence for meditation*

L: May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.

**Amen**

### Scripture and Reflection

#### **Week 1: Darkness Is Holy**

Genesis 1:1-19

Rev. Fleming Blishen

#### **Week 2: Darkness Is Beautiful**

Song of Solomon 1:2-6

Rev. Katrina Vigen

#### **Week 3: Darkness Holds Promise**

1 Samuel 3

Rev. Diana Edis

#### **Week 4: Darkness Holds God**

Luke 1:26-38

Rev. Aneeta Saroop

*Silence for meditation*

L: The Light shines in the darkness

C: And the darkness has not overcome it.

## The Annunciation

Luke 1:26-28, 30-32, 38

L: An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."

*All:*

1., 3. My ——— soul pro - claims your  
2. You have cast the might - y

great - ness, O God, and my spir - it re - joic - es in  
down from their thrones, and up - lift - ed the hum - ble of

you, You have looked with love on your  
heart, You have filled the hun - gry with

*fine last time*

ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.  
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,  
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,

strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.  
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,

How you fa - vor the weak — and low - ly one,  
As you prom - ised to Sar - ah and A - bra - ham,

hum - bling the proud of heart.  
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

# Litany and Prayers

*All*  
[A] *repeat continuously* [B]

Hm. God of mer-cy, hold us in love.

[A] *Leader or Assistant* [B]

1. In peace, in peace, we pray to you:  
2. For peace and sal - va - tion, we pray to you:  
3. For peace be-tween na - tions, for peace be-tween peo - ples:  
4. For us, who are gath-ered to wor-ship and praise you:  
5. For all of your ser-vants who live out your gos - pel:  
6. For all those who gov - ern, that jus - tice might guide them:  
7. For all those who la - bor in ser-vice to oth - ers:  
8. Grant weath-er that nour-ish - es all of cre - a - tion:  
9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from dan - ger:  
10. For all the be - lov - ed who rest in your mer - cy:

[A] *Leader or Assistant*

Help us, com-fort us, all of our days:

*All*

Keep us, hold us, gra - cious God.

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L: Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

L: God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:



Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come: your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

### Final Blessing

*Leader or Assistant* *All*

Let us bless our God: Praise and thanks to you.

*Leader or Assistant*

May God, Cre - a - tor, bless us and keep us, may

Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the Spir - it of Love be our

guide and path for all of our days. *All* A - men.

L: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, the love of Christ that guards our hearts and minds, and the joy and consolation of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

### A Blessing for Traveling in the Dark (by Jan Richardson)

Go slow  
if you can.  
Slower.  
More slowly still.  
Friendly dark  
or fearsome,  
this is no place  
to break your neck  
by rushing,  
by running,  
by crashing into  
what you cannot see.

Then again,  
it is true:  
different darks  
have different tasks,  
and if you  
have arrived here unawares,  
if you have come  
in peril  
or in pain,  
this might be no place  
you should dawdle.

I do not know  
what these shadows  
ask of you,  
what they might hold  
that means you good  
or ill.

It is not for me  
to reckon  
whether you should linger  
or you should leave.

But this is what  
I can ask for you:

That in the darkness  
there be a blessing.

That in the shadows  
there be a welcome.

That in the night  
you be encompassed  
by the Love that knows  
your name.

The God of hope fill us  
with all joy and peace in believing  
so that we may abound in hope  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

**Amen.**