

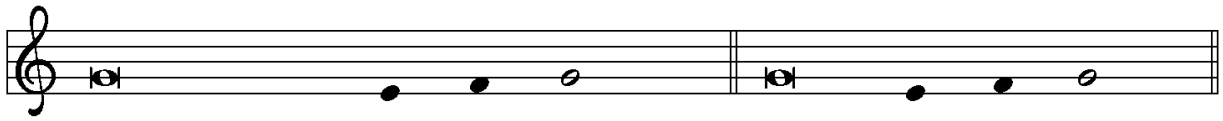
## Evening Prayer



**Advent Vespers  
December 8, 2021  
Christ the King Lutheran Church  
Houston, Texas**

## OPENING

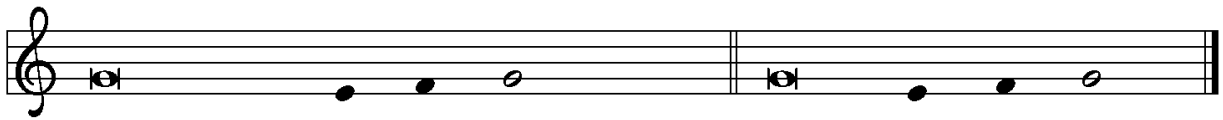
*The assembly stands. A large, lighted candle may be carried to its place.*



The Spirit and the church cry out: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**



All those who await his ap-pear-ance pray: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**



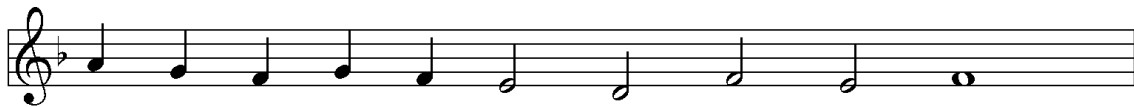
The whole cre - a - tion pleads: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

## Hymn of Light

*Joyous light of glory*



☐ 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.

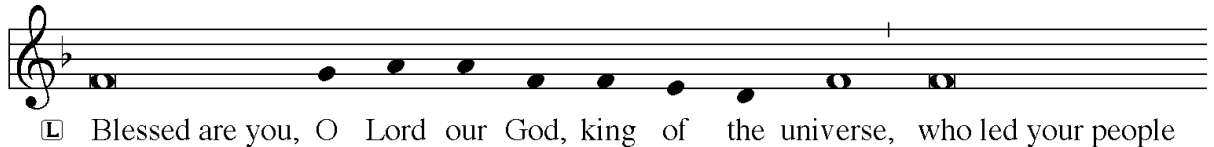
# Thanksgiving for Light



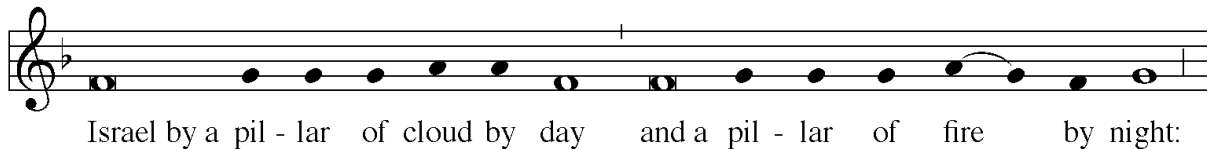
♩ The Lord be with you. ♪ And al - so with you.



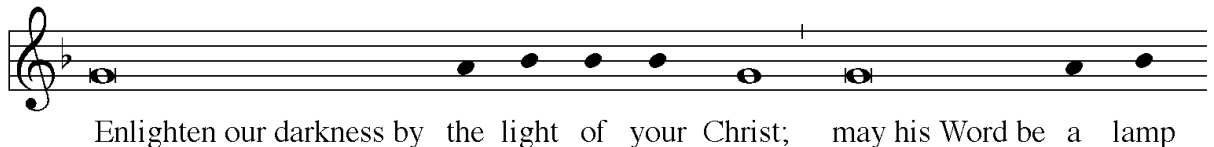
♩ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. ♪ **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**



♩ Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led your people



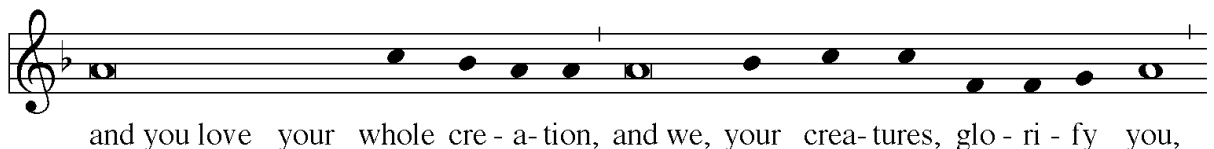
♩ Israel by a pil - lar of cloud by day and a pil - lar of fire by night:



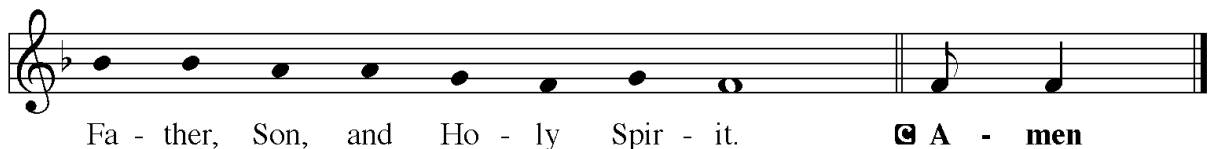
♩ Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ; may his Word be a lamp



♩ to our feet and a light to our path; for you are mer - ci - ful,



♩ and you love your whole cre - a - tion, and we, your crea - tures, glo - ri - fy you,




♩ Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it. ♪ **A - men**

PSALMODY

*sit*

All



Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;



the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac - ri - fice.

Group One or All



O Lord, I call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when

All



I cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;



the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac - ri - fice.

Group Two or All



Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.

Group One or All




Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;

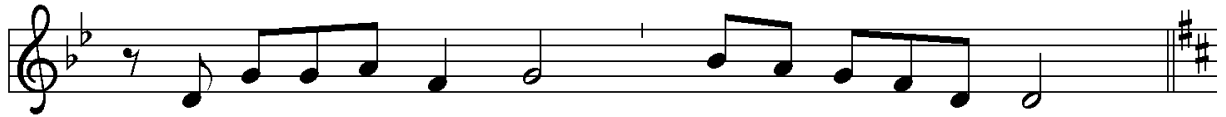


let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil -

Group Two or All



do - ers. But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God;



in you I take ref - uge. Strip me not of my life.



Glo-ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;



the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac - ri - fice.

Prayer

Psalm of the Day

December 8

*See Insert*

December 15

Psalm 31: 3-4, 6-8, 16-17

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you are?  
 2 I lay in fetters, groaning; you came to set me free.  
 3 Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me.  
 4 Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, who sit in deepest gloom,

Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!  
 I stood, my shame bemoaning; you came to honor me.  
 Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.  
 who mourn your joys departed and tremble at your doom.

Oh, kind, Lord most holy, your lamp within my breast  
 A glorious crown you give me, a treasure safe on high  
 Oh, love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace  
 All hail the Lord's appearing! O glorious Sun, now come,

to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.  
 that will not fail or leave me as earthly riches fly.  
 in love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.  
 send forth your beams so cheering and guide us safely home.

## WORD

*sit*

*After the conclusion of the reading, the assembly may respond*

**Thanks be to God.**

*The reading of scripture is followed by silence for reflection. Other forms of reflection may also follow, such as a brief commentary, teaching, or personal witness; non-biblical readings; interpretations through music or other art forms; or guided conversation among those present.*

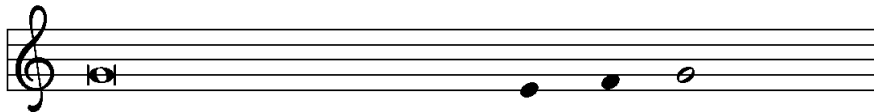
December 8 (*see insert*)

1 John 4:7-14

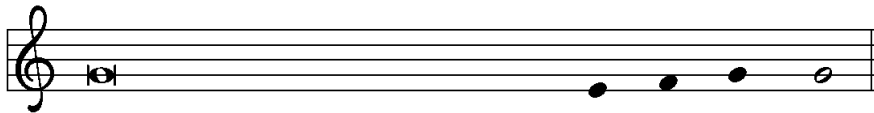
December 15

2 Corinthians 10: 17B-11:2  
The Holy Gospel: Saint Matthew 25: 1-13

Commentary



Jesus said, I am the light of the world.



**Whoever follows me will never walk in dark - ness.**

# Magnificat

1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.  
 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;

You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.  
 the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.

Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—  
 The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,

great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
 the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat  
 Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958  
 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.  
 Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.



## PRAYERS

The image shows a musical score for three voices: Soprano, Alto, and Bass. The music is in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy." The Soprano part has a melodic line with a final note on a whole note. The Alto and Bass parts provide harmonic support with chords and a final sustained chord.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us<sup>l</sup> 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<sup>l</sup> pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us<sup>l</sup> pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the health of the creation, for abundant harvests that all may share,  
and for peaceful times, let us<sup>l</sup> pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For public servants, the government, and those who protect us;  
for those who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection  
in this and every place, let us<sup>l</sup> pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel, for those who are sick and suffering,  
and for those who are in captivity, let us<sup>l</sup> pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need,  
let us | pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For Elizabeth, Michael and all servants of the church, for this assembly,  
and for all people who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy,  
let us | pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*A time of silence follows.*

Giving thanks for all who have gone before us and are at rest, rejoicing in the  
communion of Saint Nicholas and all the saints, we commend ourselves, one  
another, and our whole life to you,

through Christ our Lord. To you, O Lord.

The image shows a musical score for two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, and a half note D4. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat. It features a whole rest for the first measure, followed by a half note G3, a half note F3, and a whole note E3. The lyrics 'through Christ our Lord. To you, O Lord.' are written below the notes.

### Prayers of the Day

Almighty God, you have raised up faithful bishops of your church, including  
your servant Saint Nicholas. May the memory of his life be a source of joy  
for us and a bulwark of our faith, so that we may serve and confess your  
name before the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives  
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his  
coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

### Blessing

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
keep our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

*The greeting of peace may be shared by all.*

Amandus Derr..... Presiding Minister

Sergio Rodriguez..... Reader