

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

Joel 2:13b

Christ the King Lutheran Church

March 12, 2025

Ash Wednesday

Return to the Lord

As We Gather: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean? I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

Service of Light

Stand

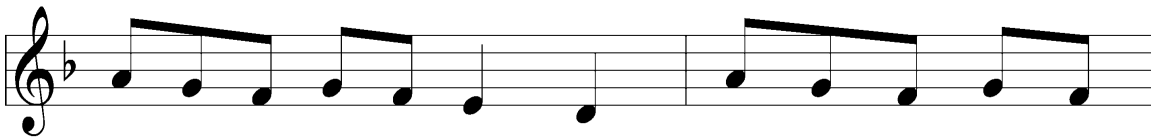
P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
C the light no darkness can overcome.

P Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
C and the day is almost over.

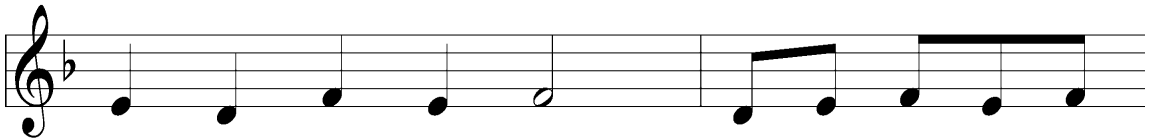
P Let Your light scatter the darkness
C and illumine Your Church.

Phos Hilaron *LSB 244*

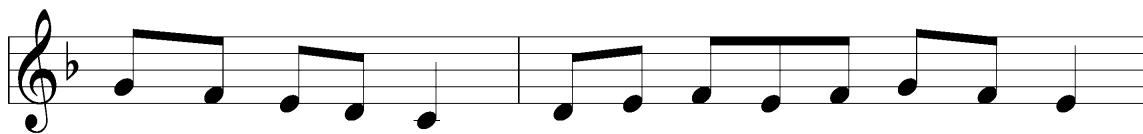
P Joyous light of glory:



C of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



bles - 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 *LSB 245*

P Blessèd 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.

Sit

Psalmody

Psalm 141 *LSB 245*

C Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening
sacrifice.

I O Lord, I call to You; come to me quickly;
hear my voice when I cry to You.

C Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening
sacrifice.

II Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,
and guard the door of my lips.

I Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;

let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.

II But my eyes are turned to You, O God;
in You I take refuge.
Strip me not of my life.

C **Glory be 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.**
**Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening
sacrifice.**

P Let us pray.
Let the incense of our repentant prayer
ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your
loving-kindness descend on 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.

C **Amen.**

772 In Holy Conversation

- 1 In holy conversation
We speak to God in prayer,
And at His invitation
Our deepest thoughts we share.
We come, His will obeying,
As children bringing needs;
And to support our praying,
His Spirit intercedes.

- 2 These holy conversations
Begin in childlike ways;
We bring our supplications
And words of thanks and praise.
With care our Father listens
To ev'ry thought expressed,
Then answers our petitions
In ways He knows are best.

- 3 As holy conversation,
In silence or by word,
In ev'ry situation
Through Jesus, we are heard.

So let us pray securely,
Expressing hopes and fears
With confidence that surely
Our Father ever hears.

Text: Gregory J. Wismar, 1946
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Readings

Old Testament Reading *1 Kings 18:20–21, 36–39*

R A reading from 1 Kings, chapter 18.

²⁰So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel.

²¹And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.” And the people did not answer him a word.

³⁶And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, “O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel,

and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. ³⁷Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.” ³⁸Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. ³⁹And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, “The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God.”

R O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading *2 Peter 1:16–21*

R A reading from 2 Peter, chapter 1.

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For when he

received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,”¹⁸ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.¹⁹ And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation.²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

R O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading *John 1:1–5, 14*

R A reading from John, chapter 1.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

R O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

R In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

Sermon

Canticle

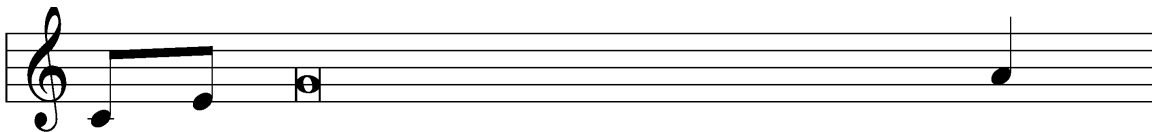
Stand

Magnificat *LSB 248*

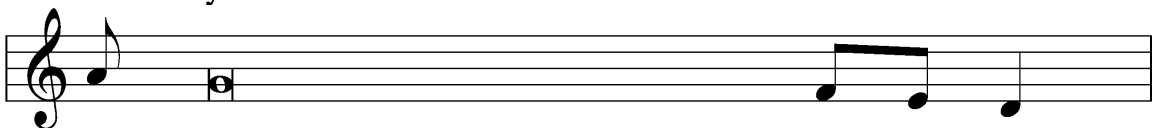
Refrain



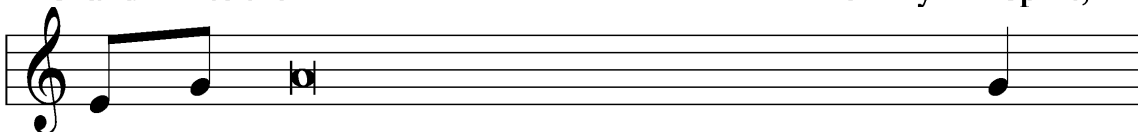
C My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -
joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag-ni-fies the
Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.



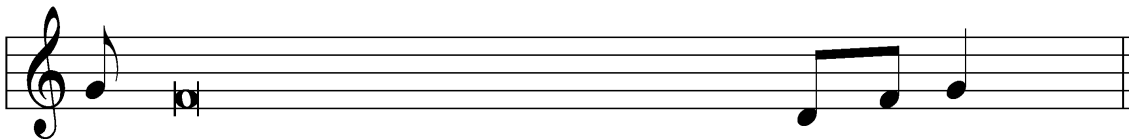
1 For _____ He has re - - - - - garded
 2 For the Mighty One has done great things to me,
 3 He has shown strength with His arm;
 4 He has filled the hungry with good things,
 5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son



1 the lowliness of His hand - maiden.
 2 and holy is His name;
 3 He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
 4 and the rich He has sent emp - - - - - ty a - way.
 5 and to the Ho - ly Spirit;



1 For be - hold, from this day
 2 and His mercy is on those who fear Him
 3 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
 4 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy
 5 as it was in the be - - - - - ginning,



1 all generations will call me blessed.
2 from generation to gen - er - ation. *Refrain*
3 and has exalt - - ed the lowly.
4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.
5 is now, and will be forever. A - men. *Refrain*

Sit

Offering

Prayer

Kneel/Stand

Litany (Lent) *LSB 249*

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

P 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:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For [names of synodical and district presidents], for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For [name of president or monarch], for all 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:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P 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:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For . . . [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

The prayers then continue:

P For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C **Thanks be to God.**

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

Silence for individual prayer may follow.

P Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C **To You, O Lord.**

Collect for Peace

P 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 Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer *LSB 251*

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C **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.**

Stand

Benedicamus *LSB 252*

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction *LSB 252*

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father,
the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and
preserve you.

C Amen.

Closing song on next page →

***Those Who Serve* – Organist/Piano:** Cynthia
Campbell; **Altar Guild:** Cindy Kelly; **Today** –
Reader: Jeff Kelly; Usher/Greeter: Kelly family;
Sound: Dan Dicus

773 Hear Us, Father, When We Pray



1 Hear us, Fa - ther, when we pray, Through Your Son and
 2 When we know not what to say And our wound - ed
 3 Je - sus, ad - vo - cate on high, Sac - ri - ficed on
 4 By Your Spir - it now at - tend To our prayers and



in Your Spir - it. By Your Spir - it's Word con - vey
 souls are plead - ing, May Your Spir - it, night and day,
 Cal - v'ry's al - tar, Through Your priest - ly blood we cry:
 sup - pli - ca - tions, As like in - cense they as - cend



All that we through Christ in - her - it,
 Groan with - in us in - ter - ced - ing;
 Hear our prayers, though they may fal - ter;
 To Your heav'n - ly hab - i - ta - tions.



That as bap - tized heirs we may Tru - ly pray.
 By His sighs, too deep for words, We are heard.
 Place them on Your Fa - ther's throne As Your own.
 May their fra - grance waft a - bove, God of love.

Text: Chad L. Bird, 1970
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