



Lenten Evening Services: Marks of the Church

**March 4, 2026: Administering Sacraments of Baptism
and Holy Communion**

7:00 pm

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Growing a Christian community where each is valued, accepted, and loved.

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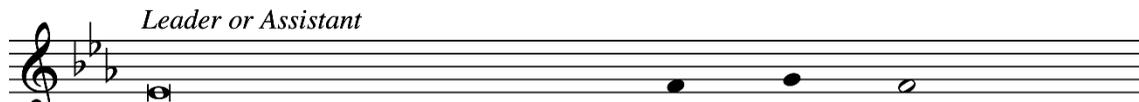
Lenten Evening Service: Holden Evening Prayer

Service of Light

Please stand as you are able.

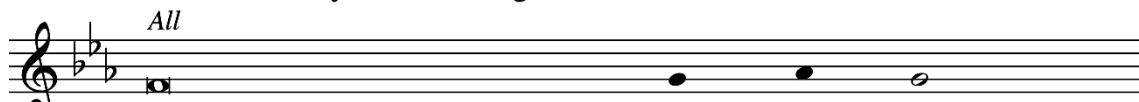
Procession

Leader or Assistant



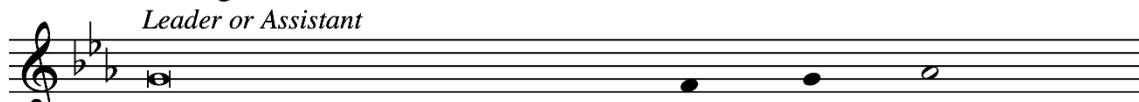
Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world,

All



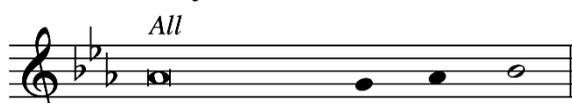
the light no darkness can o - ver - come.

Leader or Assistant



Stay with us now, for it is evening,

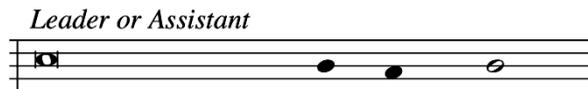
All



and the day is al - most over.

Hand candles are lighted.

Leader or Assistant



Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

All



and shine within your peo-ple here.

Evening Hymn

All



1. Joy - ous light of heav'n - ly 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



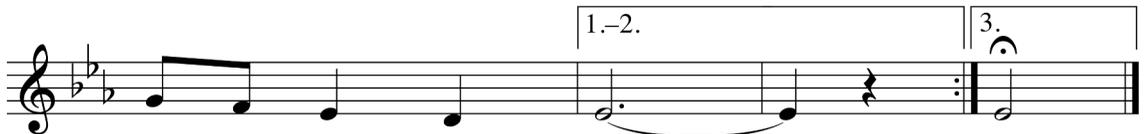
sto - ry, shine on ev - 'ry land and race. Now as
wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that
jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y



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.

Evening Thanksgiving

Leader or Assistant *All*



May God be with you all. And al - so with you.

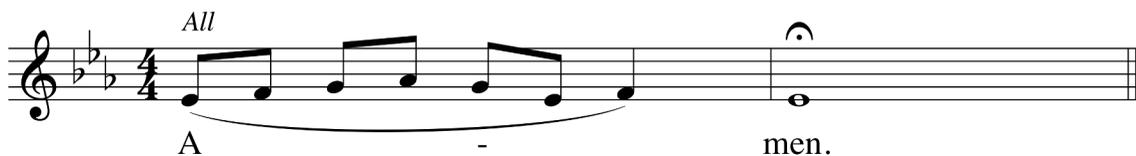
Leader or Assistant *All*



Let us sing our thanks to God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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.

All



A - men.

Please be seated and extinguish hand candles.

Psalmody, Readings, and Canticles

Psalm 141

Refrain *All*



Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be - fore you, the
lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

Verse 1

Leader or Group One



1. O God, I call to you, come to me

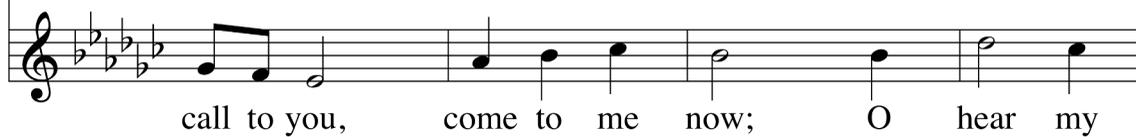
All or Group Two



1. O God, I



now; O hear my voice when I cry to



call to you, come to me now; O hear my

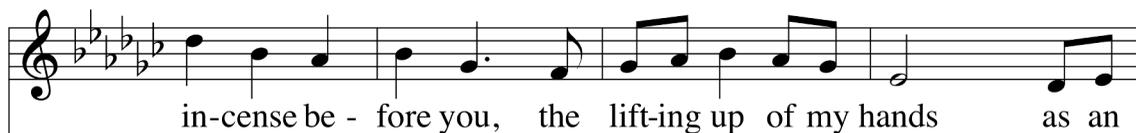
Refrain



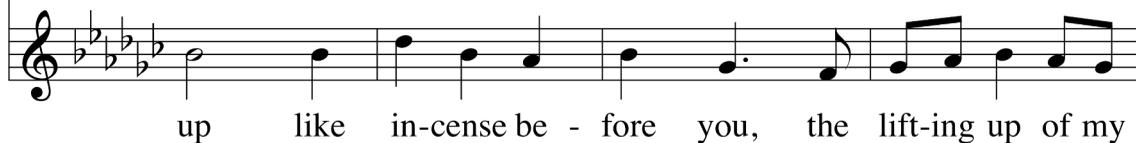
you. Let my prayer rise up like



voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise



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

Verse 2

of-fer-ing to you. 2. Keep watch with -
hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

in me, God; deep in my heart may the light of your
2. Keep watch with - in me, God; deep in my

love be burn - ing bright.
heart may the light of your love be burn - ing

Refrain

Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be - fore you, the
bright. 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

Verse 3

3. All praise to the God of all, Cre - a - tor of

you. 3. All praise to the

life; all praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of

God of all, Cre - a - tor of life; all praise be to

Refrain

love. Let my prayer rise up like

Christ and the Spir-it of love. Let my prayer rise

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.
 hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

Silence for meditation.

A: 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.

C: Amen.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Paul writes: ¹⁷ Now in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸ For, to begin with, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it.

¹⁹ Indeed, there have to be factions among you, for only so will it become clear who among you are genuine. ²⁰ When you come together, it is not

really to eat the Lord's supper. ²¹ For when the time comes to eat, each of you proceeds to eat your own supper, and one goes hungry and another becomes drunk. ²² What! Do you not have households to eat and drink in? Or do you show contempt for the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I commend you? In this matter I do not commend you!

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For all who eat and drink without discerning the body eat and drink judgment against themselves. ³⁰ For this reason many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹ But if we judged ourselves, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

³³ So then, my brothers and sisters, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. ³⁴ If you are hungry, eat at home, so that when you come together, it will not be for your condemnation. About the other things I will give instructions when I come.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Rev. Emily Beckering

Silence for meditation.

A: The Light shines in the darkness;

C: And the darkness has not overcome it.

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day #365 (green hymnal)

“Built on a Rock”

The Annunciation and Magnificat

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."



1., 3. My soul pro-claims your great-ness, O God, and my
2. You have cast the might - y down from their thrones, and up -



spir - it re - joic - es in you. You have looked with love on your
lift - ed the hum - ble of heart. You have filled the hun - gry with



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. How you fa - vor the
strong is your jus - tice, strong your love, as you prom - ised to



weak and low - ly one, hum - bling the proud of heart!
Sar - ah and A - bra - ham, kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

Please sit or kneel as you are able.

Litany and Prayers

Intercessions

All
[A] repeat continuously [B]

Hmm. 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.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The word 'All' is written above the first measure. The lyrics are 'Keep us, hold us, gra - cious God.' The music ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Closing Prayers

A: 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.

C: Amen.

A: God, 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.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

All depart in silence.

Announcements

Please plan to stay after worship next Sunday, March 8, 2026, for a Special Congregation Meeting to vote on the Members of the Nominating Committee.

Becky Betsch, Holly Ford and Matt Mueller have agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee, which fulfills the required number of Committee members, per our Constitution. Thanks to those willing to serve on the Nominating Committee, we now have a slate to offer to the congregation for approval.

Though the meeting should only take a few minutes, it is important work and your participation is needed!

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Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 4

6 pm Lenten Potluck Dinner

7 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service

Sunday, March 8: 3 Lent

9 am Adult Christian Education:

Living Purple

10 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

After Worship:

Special Congregational Meeting

Tuesday, March 10

11 am Bible Study: Living Purple

Wednesday, March 11

6 pm Lenten Potluck Dinner

7 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Emily Beckering, Pastor

Kris Keith, Music Director

Kate Wollenburg, Organist

Chet Laine, Assisting Minister

Kathy Crosby, Reader

Becky Betsch, Livestreamer