

Evening Prayer

Vespers



Opening

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

A dialogue may accompany or follow the procession. When it is sung, the following or a similar tone may be used, the assembly echoing the leader.

S 309

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, **the light no darkness can o-ver-come.**

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening, **and the day is al-most over.**

Let your light scat-ter the darkness **and illu-mine your church.**

OR

One of the following dialogues may be sung to the above or a similar tone.

General

God is our light and ¹ our salvation,
our refuge ¹ and our stronghold.
From the rising of the sun ¹ to its setting,
we praise your ¹ name, O God.
For with you is the foun-¹ tain of life,
and in your light ¹ we see light.

Advent

The Spirit and the ¹ church cry out:
Amen. ¹ Come, Lord Jesus.
All those who await
his ap-¹ pearance pray:
Amen. ¹ Come, Lord Jesus.
The whole cre-¹ ation pleads:
Amen. ¹ Come, Lord Jesus.

Joyous Light of Glory

229

Leader

Joy-ous light of glo-ry:

All

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.

EVENING PRAYER

The light shines ¹in the darkness,
and the darkness has not ¹overcome it.
 The Word became flesh and ¹lived among us,
and we have be- ¹held Christ's glory.
 To us a child is born, to us a ¹Son is given.
In the Word was life, and the life was the light ¹of all people.

Lent

Behold, now is the accept- ¹able time;
now is the day ¹of salvation.
 Turn us again, O God of ¹our salvation,
that the light of your face
may ¹shine on us.
 May your justice shine ¹like the sun;
and may the poor be ¹lifted up.

Easter

Jesus Christ is risen ¹from the dead.
Alleluia, alleluia, ¹alleluia!
 We are illumined
 by the brightness ¹of his rising.
Alleluia, alleluia, ¹alleluia!
 Death has no more dominion ¹over us.
Alleluia, alleluia, ¹alleluia!

If the hymn of light and thanksgiving for light are omitted, the service continues with the psalmody on p. 312.

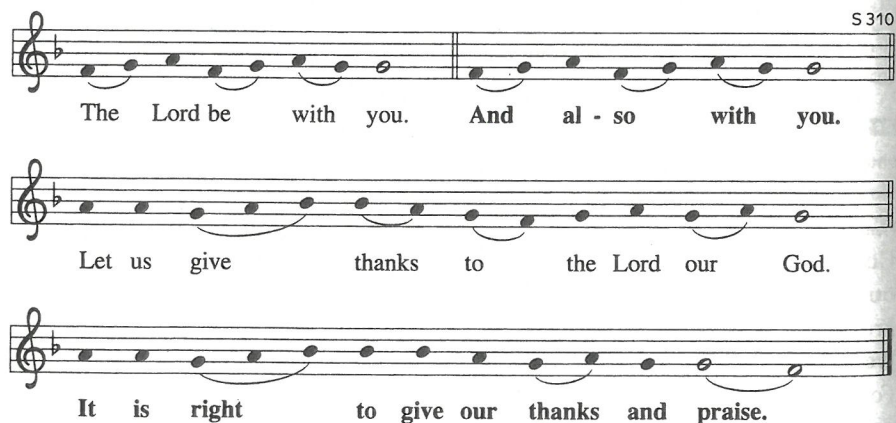
Hymn of Light

A hymn of praise to Christ the light (#229–231, 560–563) may be sung, during which candles may be lighted. When the large candle is used, other candles are lighted from its flame.

Thanksgiving for Light

The leader and the assembly give thanks, using the following or another appropriate form.

S 310

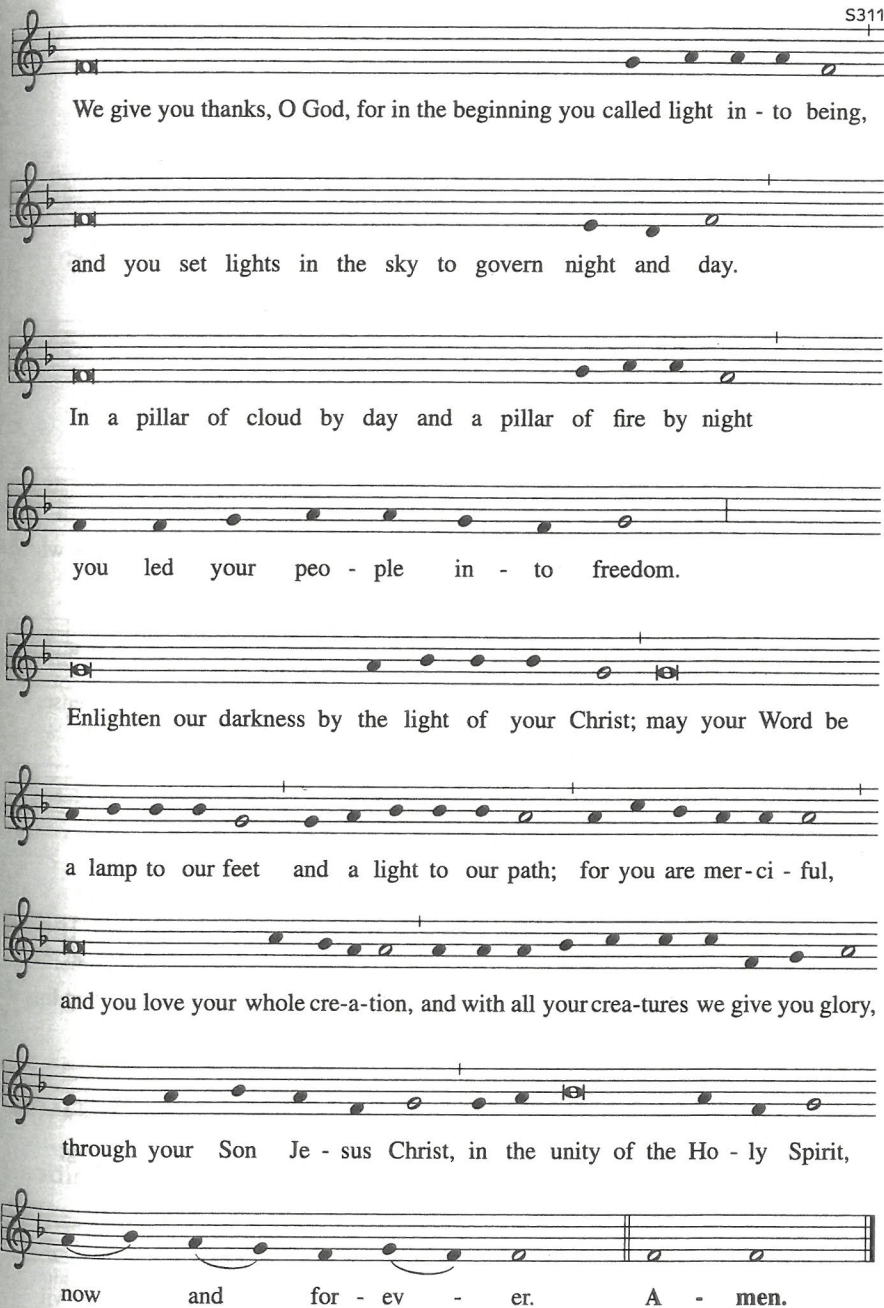


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

S311



We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light in - to being,

and you set lights in the sky to govern night and day.

In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night

you led your peo - ple in - to freedom.

Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ; may your 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 with all your crea-tures we give you glory,

through your Son Je - sus Christ, in the unity of the Ho - ly Spirit,

now and for - ev - er. A - men.

The assembly is seated.

Psalmody

The psalmody begins with Psalm 141, a song of forgiveness and protection; Psalm 121; or another psalm appropriate for evening.

All S 312

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.

All

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.

The psalmody may continue with one or more additional psalms. Each is followed by a time of silence, which may be concluded by a psalm prayer; the assembly responds **Amen**.

Song

Additional assembly song may follow the psalmody. A hymn appropriate to the time of day or the season is normally sung, the assembly standing.

Word

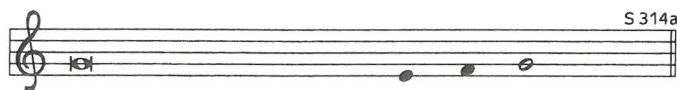
Readings

The assembly is seated.

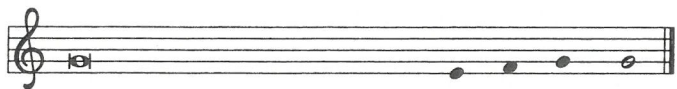
The service includes one or more scripture readings. After the conclusion of each reading, the assembly may respond **Thanks be to God**.

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

The reflection may conclude with a scriptural dialogue. When it is sung, the following or a similar tone may be used, the assembly echoing the leader.

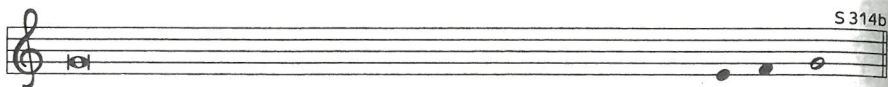


Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

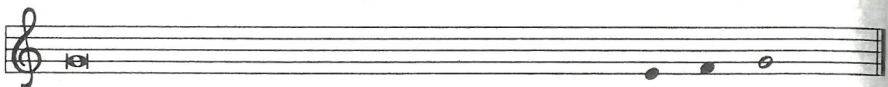


Whoever follows me will never walk in dark - ness.

OR



Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,



but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.

Gospel Canticle

The assembly stands to sing the gospel canticle for evening, the song of Mary, using the following or another musical version (#234–235; 251, 573, 723, 882).



My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord, my



spir - it re - joic - es in God my Sav - ior.



1 My soul proclaims the great - ness of the Lord,
2 You have mer - cy on those who fear you,
3 You have filled the hun - gry with good things



my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
from generation to gen - er - ation.
and sent the - rich a - way empty.



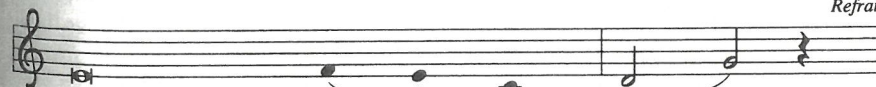
for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your low - ly servant.
You have shown . . strength with your arm
You have come to the aid of your ser - vant Is - ra - el,



From this day all generations will call me bless'd:
and scattered the proud in their con - ceit,
to remember the prom - ise of mercy,



you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
casting down the might - y from their thrones
the promise made to our . . . fore - bears,



and holy is your name.
and lifting up the low - ly.
to Abraham and his chil - dren for - ev - er.

Prayers

The assembly kneels or stands. The following litany or another form of the prayers may be sung or spoken.

S 316

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

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 the health of the creation, for abundant harvests that all may share,
and for peaceful times, let us ' 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 ' 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 ' 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 name/s 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.

Other petitions may be added.

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 name/s and all the saints, we commend ourselves, one another, and
our whole life to you,

through Christ our Lord. To you, O Lord.

The litany may be followed by one or more additional prayers.

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the
ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go
out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is
leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

OR

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
our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever.
Amen.

OR

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected us today. We ask you to forgive us all our sins, where we have done wrong, and graciously to protect us tonight. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is sung or spoken.

S 318



Our Fa-ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Blessing

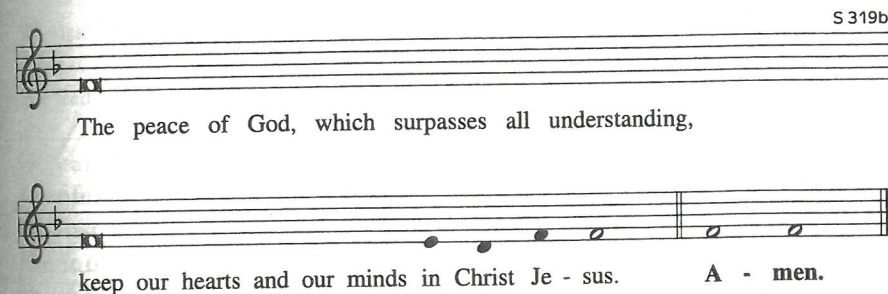
S 319a



Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The leader continues:

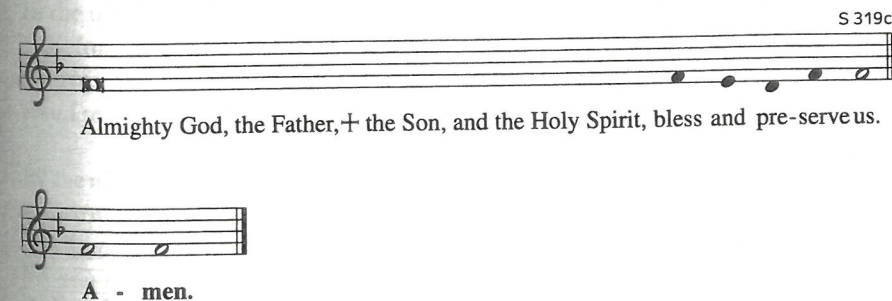
S 319b



The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
keep our hearts and our minds in Christ Je - sus. A - men.

OR

S 319c



Almighty God, the Father, † the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre-serve us.
A - men.

A hymn may be sung.

The greeting of peace may be shared by all.

