

L E N T E N V E S P E R S

W E D N E S D A Y , M A R C H 1 5 , 2 0 2 3



The Savior
Henry Ossawa Tanner (1899-1937)

SAINT MARTINS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annapolis, Maryland

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able

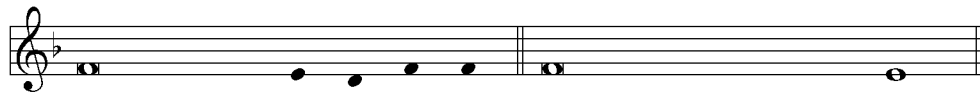
OPENING



☐ Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, ☑ **the light no darkness can over- come.**



☐ Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve-ning, ☑ **and the day is almost o- ver.**



☐ Let your light scat- ter the dark-ness, ☑ **and illumine your Church.**

HYMN OF LIGHT



☐ 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

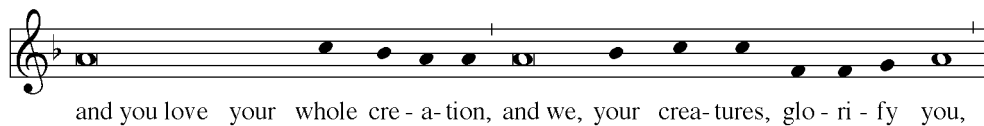
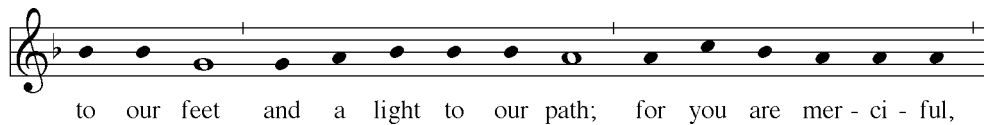
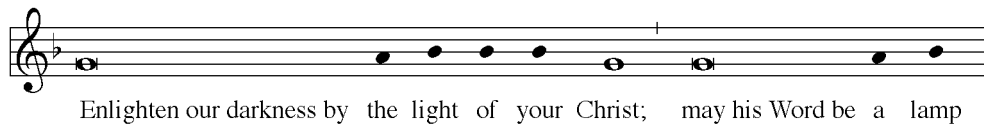
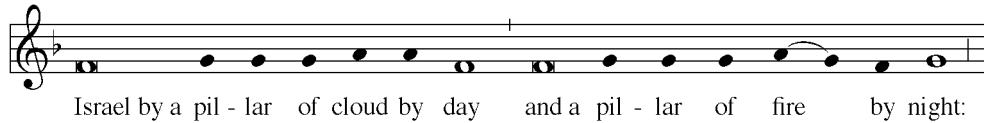


be - ing praised with pure voic - es for - ev - er. O Son of God,

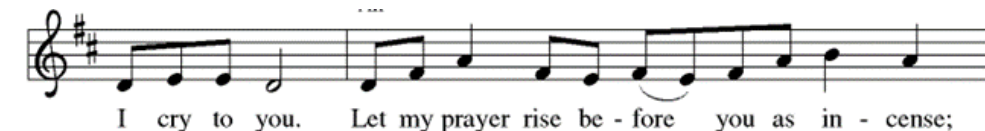
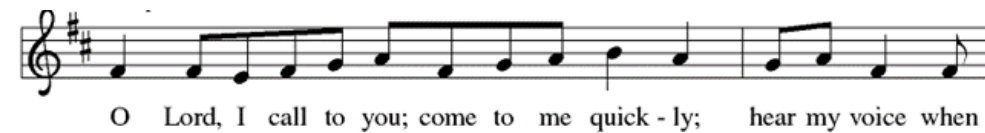


O Giv - er of life: The u - ni - verse pro - claims your glo - ry.

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT



PSALMODY





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



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 -



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

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascent before you, O Lord, and let your lovingkindness descend upon 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 and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Jeremiah 2:4-13

⁴Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. ⁵Thus says the LORD: What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves? ⁶They did not say, "Where is the LORD who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?" ⁷I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination. ⁸The priests did not say, "Where is the LORD?" Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal, and went after things that do not profit. ⁹Therefore once more I accuse you, says the LORD, and I accuse your children's children. ¹⁰Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has ever been such a thing. ¹¹Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit. ¹²Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the LORD, ¹³for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

PSALM 81

¹Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob. ²Raise a song, sound the tambourine, the sweet lyre with the harp. ³Blow the trumpet at the new moon, at the full moon, on our festal day. ⁴For it is a statute for Israel, an ordinance of the God of Jacob. ⁵He made it a decree in Joseph, when he went out over the land of Egypt. I hear a voice I had not known: ⁶"I relieved your shoulder of the burden; your hands were freed from the basket. ⁷In distress you called, and I rescued you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder; I tested you at the waters of Meribah. ⁸Hear, O my people, while I admonish you; O Israel, if you would but listen to me! ⁹There shall be no strange god among you; you shall not bow down to a foreign god. ¹⁰I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide and I will fill it. ¹¹But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me. ¹²So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels. ¹³O that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways! ¹⁴Then I would quickly subdue their enemies, and turn my hand against their foes. ¹⁵Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him, and their doom would last forever. ¹⁶I would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."

Please stand as you are able

THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 7:14-31, 37-39

The Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ according to John, the seventh chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁴About the middle of the festival Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach. ¹⁵The Jews were astonished at it, saying, "How does this man have such learning, when he has never been taught?" ¹⁶Then Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine but his who sent me. ¹⁷Anyone who resolves to do the will of God will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own. ¹⁸Those who speak on their own seek their own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and there is nothing false in him. ¹⁹Did not Moses give you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why are you looking for an opportunity to kill me? ²⁰The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is trying to kill you?" ²¹Jesus answered them, "I performed one work, and all of you are astonished. ²²Moses gave you circumcision (it is, of course, not from Moses, but from the patriarchs), and you circumcise a man on the

sabbath. ²³If a man receives circumcision on the sabbath in order that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because I healed a man's whole body on the sabbath? ²⁴Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment." ²⁵Now some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, "Is not this the man whom they are trying to kill? ²⁶And here he is, speaking openly, but they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Messiah? ²⁷Yet we know where this man is from; but when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from." ²⁸Then Jesus cried out as he was teaching in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I am from. I have not come on my own. But the one who sent me is true, and you do not know him. ²⁹I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me." ³⁰Then they tried to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him, because his hour had not yet come. ³¹Yet many in the crowd believed in him and were saying, "When the Messiah comes, will he do more signs than this man has done?" ³⁷On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" ³⁹Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The Gospel of The Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

BRIEF REFLECTION

HYMN

LBW 93



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, blest re - deem - er, whom we love,
 2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, breath - ing no re - pen - tant vow,
 3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing with more fer - vent love for you;



foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior from the world a - bove;
 though we see you wound - ed, bleed - ing, see your thorn - en - cir - cled brow?
 may our eyes be ev - er turn - ing to be - hold your cross a - new;



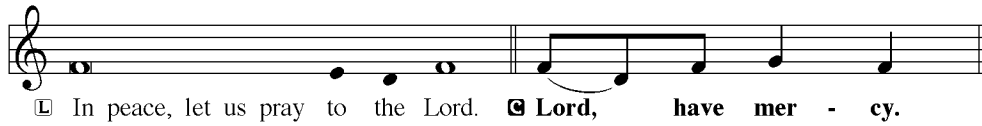
of - ten have your eyes, of - fend - ed, gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall;
 Yet your sin - less death has brought us life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest;
 till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er from the bless - ed Sav - ior's side,



yet up - on the cross ex - tend - ed, you have borne the pain of all.
 on - ly what your grace has taught us calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
 grav - en in our hearts for - ev - er, dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: Girolamo Savonarola, 1452–1498; tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826–1896, alt.
 Music: O DU LIEBE MEINER LIEBE, Hernhut, c. 1735

LITANY



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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 our church staff, Pastor Dave and for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our 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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

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



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 the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

▪ SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY ▪

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