

EVENING PRAYER
Vespers

April 9, 2025

7:30 p.m.

The SERVICE OF LIGHT may be used to begin Evening Prayer. The service may be begun with a procession in which a large, lighted candle is carried to its stand in front of the congregation.

Stand

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

As the hymn (printed on the next page) is sung, the candles on and near the altar are lighted. When the large candle is used, the candles are lighted from its flame.

O Light Whose Splendor Thrills

1 O Light whose splen - dor thrills and glad - dens
2 As twi - light hov - ers near at sun - set,
3 In all life's bril - liant, time - less mo - ments,

with ra - diance bright - er than the sun,
and lamps are ful lit, and chil - dren nod,
let faith - ful voic - es sing your praise,

pure gleam of God's un - end - ing glo - ry,
in eve - ning hymns we lift our voic - es
O Son of God, our life - be - stow - er,

O Je - sus, blest A - noint - ed One:
to Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son, one God.
whose glo - ry light - ens end - less days.

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The thanksgiving concludes the Service of Light.

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L Blessed 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

Kneel/Sit

The PSALMODY begins with this song for forgiveness and protection.

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

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

Let my prayer rise before you as incense;
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

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

Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.

But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God;
in you I take refuge. Strip me not of my life.

Glory 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.

Silence for meditation.

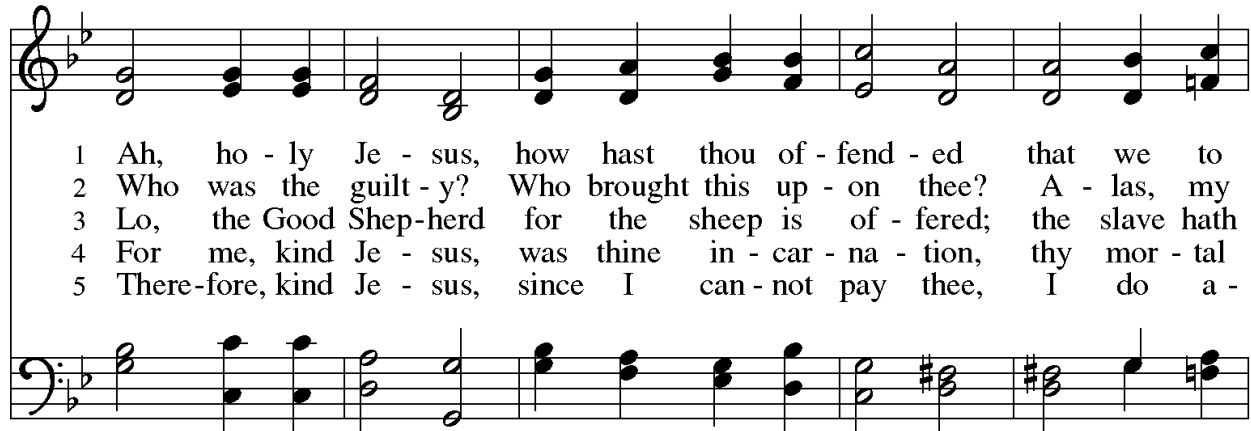
L Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before you, O Lord, and let your lovingkindness descend upon us, that with purified minds we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host, and may glorify you forever and ever.

C Amen

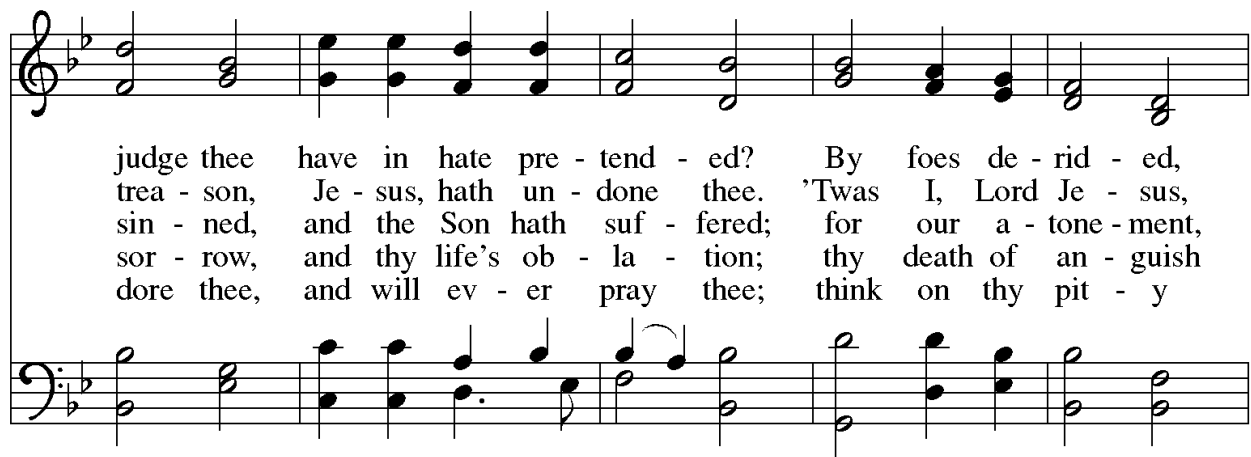
Stand

THE HYMN is sung.

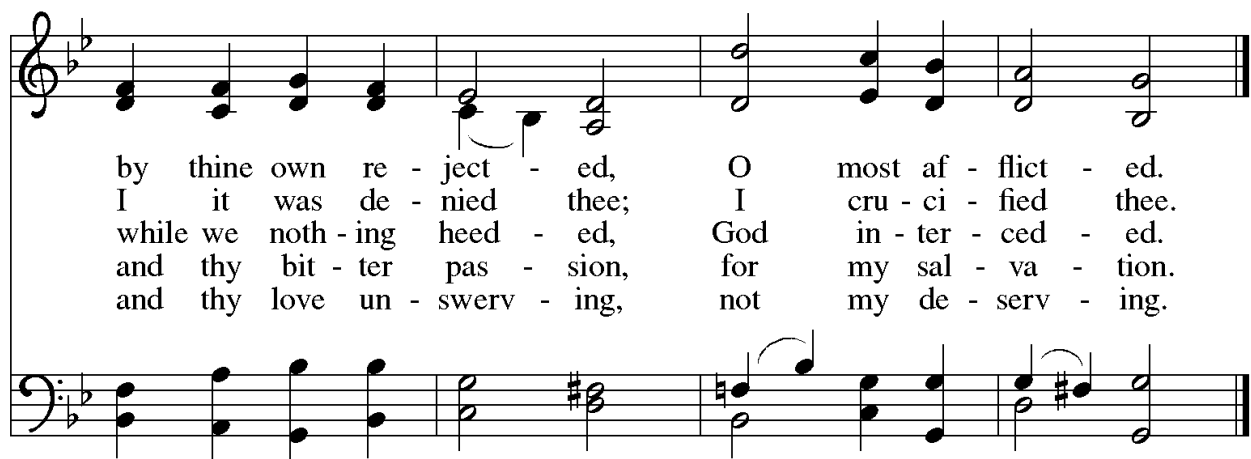
Ah, Holy Jesus



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
3 Lo, the Good Shep-herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
5 There-fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Sit

PSALM 126 (The congregation's antiphon/refrain is printed in bold font.)

**C The Lord delivers us from the power of darkness,
And leads us into the kingdom of his Son.**

L ¹ When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

² Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

**C The Lord delivers us from the power of darkness,
And leads us into the kingdom of his Son.**

L ³ Then they said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

⁴ The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

**C The Lord delivers us from the power of darkness,
And leads us into the kingdom of his Son.**

L ⁵ Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the Negev.

⁶ Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁷ Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

**C The Lord delivers us from the power of darkness,
And leads us into the kingdom of his Son.**

After this the leader continues:

L 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.

Stand

The GOSPEL CANTICLE (printed on the next page) is sung.

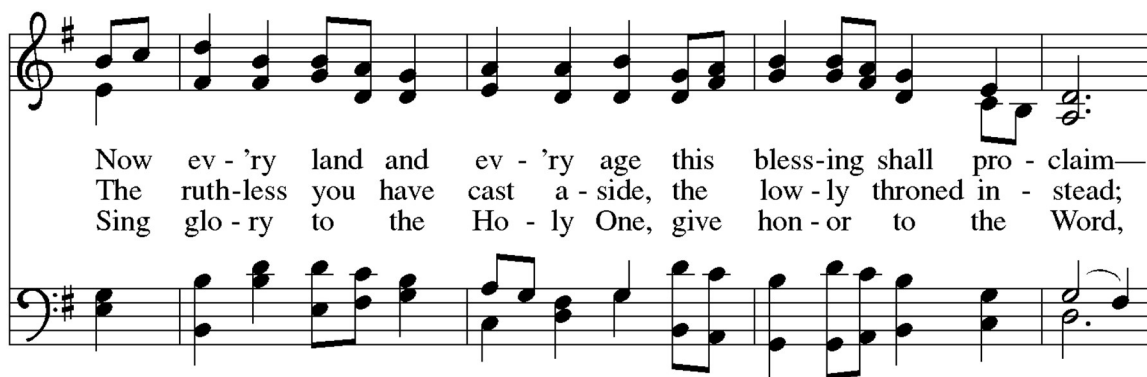
My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness



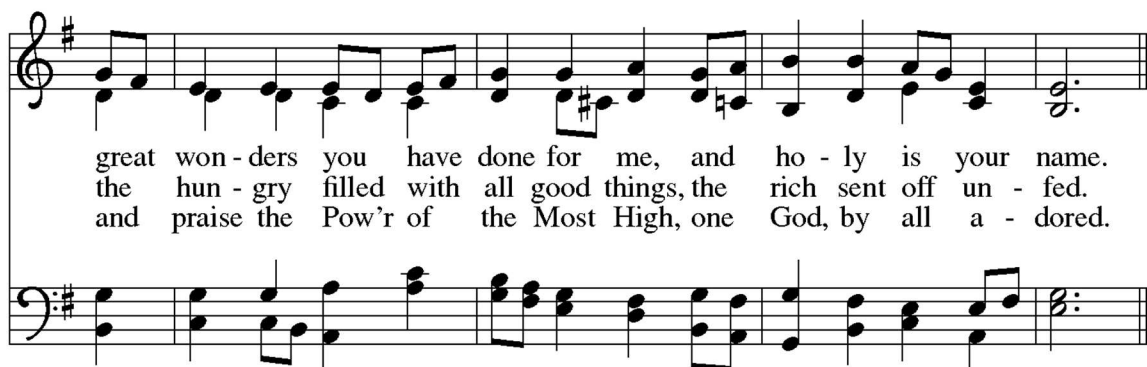
1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



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.

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Kneel/Stand

The LITANY is sung or said.

L In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

L 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.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

L For our pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

L 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.

C Lord, have mercy.

L 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.

L 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.

L 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.

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Thanks be to God.**

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

Silence for meditation.

L 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.**

L 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. ⁽²⁵⁵⁾

C **Amen**

L Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us 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

- L** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Sit

An OFFERING may be received during which a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.

The ANTHEM: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross R. Shephard
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When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, may all.

The SERMON. The Reverend Dr. Mike Sowards

Stand

- P** Lord 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.
- C** Amen

The minister blesses the congregation.

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

A HYMN (printed on the next page) is sung.

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.
 4 "I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.
 I the Lord will smile up - on you, and give you peace.

In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for-ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com-fort stilled you.
 I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav-ior, Com - fort - er and Broth-er.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."
 Go, my chil - dren, I will keep you, and give you peace."

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The Easter Cycle celebrates the events surrounding our Lord's passion, death, and resurrection. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, the Easter Cycle includes the Lenten season, Holy Week, and the Easter Season. This cycle concludes with the Day of Pentecost, as the culmination of the resurrection through the coming of the Holy Spirit to Christ's followers.

The liturgical color purple, symbolic of our penitence and Jesus' royalty, is used in Lent.



We welcome Lauren Exley as our Guest Organist tonight. Thank you for your assistance while Bruce Tonkin is on vacation.

Please join us for light refreshments after the service.