

**March 22, 2023
6:30 p.m.
Vespers Lenten Service**

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

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Wednesday, March 22nd 2023
Vespers Lenten Service
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WELCOME

Blessed be the Holy Trinity † one God, who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Behold, unveiled the vesper skies: the evening has begun.

Let prayer and praise like incense rise as sets the golden sun.

How blest are you, all loving God, who weaves both day and night.

A starry mantle for our road, the shadow and the light.

Stay with us, Christ, our rest prepare as labor ebbs with night.

And holy dreams woven with prayer till dawns the splendid light.

PRAYER

Loving God,

As winter days grow longer, drawing short the hours of night, may your presence
be our comfort, and may Christ become our light. As we journey through this
season, pilgrims through a thirsty land, quench us with your living presence, and
guide us with your loving hand.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has four measures, each with a measure number above it: 1*, 2, 3, and 4. The second system has four measures. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The bass line is a simple accompaniment of chords and single notes.

1* 2 3 4

1 All praise to thee, my God, this night for all the bless-ings of the light.
2 For - give me, Lord, for thy dear Son, the ill that I this day have done;
3 Teach me to live, that I may dread the grave as lit - tle as my bed.
4 Oh, may my soul in thee re - pose, and may sweet sleep mine eye-lids close,
5 Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise God, all crea-tures here be - low;

Keep me, oh, keep me, King of kings, be - neath thine own al - might - y wings.
that with the world, my - self, and thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.
Teach me to die, that so I may rise glo - rious at the awe - some day.
sleep that shall me more vig - rous make to serve my God when I a - wake!
praise God a - bove, ye heav' n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

* *May be sung in canon.*

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, alt.
Music: TALLIS' CANON, Thomas Tallis, 1505-1585

Blessing Of Hope *(by Jan Richardson)*

So may we know
the hope
that is not just
for someday
but for this day—
here, now,
in this moment
that opens to us:

hope not made
of wishes
but of substance,

hope made of sinew
and muscle
and bone,

hope that has breath
and a beating heart,

hope that will not
keep quiet
and be polite,

hope that knows
how to holler
when it is called for,

hope that knows
how to sing

when there seems
little cause,

hope that raises us
from the dead—

not someday
but this day,
every day,
again and

again and
again.

Amen.

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Blessed are those who trust in God, whose trust is God. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought, it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.


SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

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PRAYER

God of the Universe,

We give thanks that your promises are true, and that you are faithful. May we find joy through giving and delight in our offering. Prepare our hearts to give freely and cheerfully. Breathe life into the seeds we sow, allowing them to grow into well-watered, fruitful trees of life. Bless us and keep us, make your face shine upon us. Turn your face towards us and give us peace. Through Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God,

Our treasures come only from you. It is only through your goodness, that we have received so much. We came into this life with nothing, and we leave the same way. Guide us, and inspire us, to share ourselves and the resources we have. May these offerings be used for the goodness of your creation.

Amen.

Watch, O Lord

Refrain - All

Watch, O Lord, with all those a - wake this night,
 watch, O Lord, with all those who weep; give your
 an - gels and saints charge o - ver all who sleep.

Leader *All*

1 Tend your ail - ing ones:
 2 Soothe your suf - f'ring ones: in your love, Lord,
 3 Hold your griev - ing ones:
 4 Guard your lit - tle ones:

Leader *All*

Rest your wea - ry ones:
 Heal af - flict - ed ones: in your love, Lord.
 Raise your fall - en ones:
 Guide your search - ing ones:

Leader *All* *Refrain*

Bless your dy - ing ones:
 Shield your joy - ous ones: in your love, O Lord of all.
 Mend your bro - ken ones:
 Grant us all your peace:

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on a prayer attributed to Augustine

Music: WATCH, O LORD, Marty Haugen

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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May God, the giver of love, provide you with strength.

May Christ, the resurrection and the life, provide you with hope.


May the Holy Spirit, the source of rebirth, provide you with renewal.

And may the Three In + One, bless you in this Lenten journey.

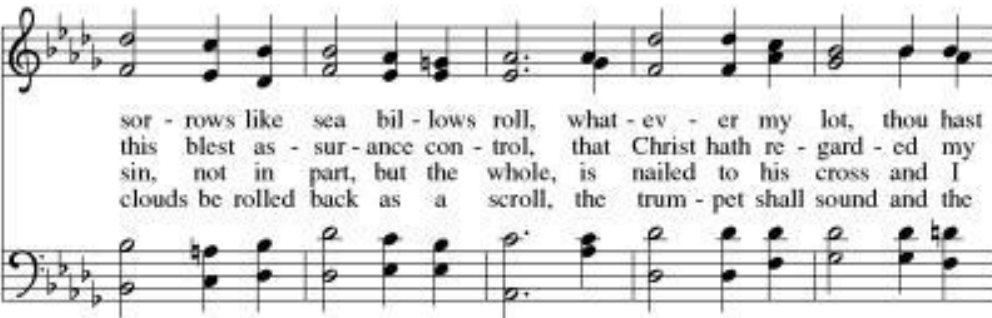
Amen.

SENDING SONG

When Peace, like a River It Is Well with My Soul



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul,

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

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