

**Advent Midweek 1
December 5, 2018
Holden Evening Prayer**

Prelude *Let My Prayer Rise Up*

Marty Haugen

Versicles

Solo Jesus Christ, You are the light of the world,

All **The light no darkness can overcome.**

Solo Stay with us now, for it is evening,

All **And the day is almost over.**

Solo Let Your light scatter the darkness,

All **And shine within Your people.**

Evening Hymn "Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory"

tune: JOYOUS LIGHT

Choir *Joyous light of heav'nly glory, loving glow of God's own face,
You who sing creation's story, shine on ev'ry land and race.
Now as evening falls around us, we shall raise our songs to You.
God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.*

All **In the stars that grace the darkness, in the blazing sun of dawn,
In the light of peace and wisdom, we can hear Your quiet song.
Love that fills the night with wonder, love that warms the weary soul,
Love that bursts all chains asunder, set us free and make us whole.**

**You who made the heaven's splendor, ev'ry dancing star of night,
Make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect Your light.
Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way,
Loving Spirit of salvation lead us on to endless day.**

Evening Thanksgiving

Solo May God be with you all.

All **And also with you.**

Solo Let us sing our thanks to God.

All **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Solo 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 **Amen.**

Psalm 41

Refrain:

All **Let my prayer rise up like incense before you,
The lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.**

Choir *O God, I call to you, come to me now;
O hear my voice when I cry to you. Refrain*

*Keep watch within me, God;
Deep in my heart may the light of your love be burning bright. Refrain*

*All praise to the God of all, Creator of life;
All praise be to Christ and the Spirit of love. Refrain*

Silence for Meditation

Pastor 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. **Amen.**

Reading *God's Covenant with Abraham*

Genesis 15:1-6

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." ⁴And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." ⁵And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

P The light shines in the darkness.

C **And the darkness has not overcome it.**

Office Hymn “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

LSB 352

Sermon “Stories of Waiting: Abraham & Sarah”

Genesis 15:1-6

The Annunciation

Luke 1:26-28, 30-32, 38

Solo 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.

Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

Choir My soul proclaims Your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in You. You have looked with love on Your servant here, and blessed me all my life through. Great and mighty are You, O Holy One, strong is Your kindness evermore. How you favor the weak and lowly one, humbling the proud of heart! You have cast the mighty down from their thrones, and uplifted the humble of heart. You have filled the hungry with wondrous things, and left the wealthy no part. Great and mighty are You, O Faithful One, strong is Your justice, strong Your love, as You promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness forevermore.

All My soul proclaims Your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in You.
You have looked with love on Your servant here,
And blessed me all my life through.

Litany and Prayer

Congregation responds to each petition: God of mercy, hold us in love.

Solo Help us, comfort us, all of our days.

All Keep us, hold us, gracious God.

Collect of the Day

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Prayer

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. **Amen.**

God, remember us in Your love, and teach us to pray:

Lord’s Prayer

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Final Blessing

Solo Let us bless our God.

All Praise and thanks to You.

Solo May God, Creator, bless us and keep us, may Christ be ever light for our lives,
May the Spirit of Love be our guide and path for all of our days.

All Amen.

Closing Hymn “The Advent of Our King”

LSB 331