

Lenten Midweek 4
March 26, 2025
Holden Evening Prayer

Prelude *Hope of the World*

Frances Havergal
to follow text, see LSB 690, sts. 1, 3

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 here.**

Evening Hymn "Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory" tune: JOYOUS LIGHT

All **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.**

**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 141

Refrain:

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

All **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

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 *The Sign of Immanuel*

Isaiah 7:10–14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

P The light shines in the darkness.

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

Office Hymn “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

LSB 356

Choir The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady.”

All **Gloria!**

Choir “For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady.”

All **Gloria!**

Choir Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”
Most highly favored lady,

All **Gloria!**

All **Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
“Most highly favored lady.”
Gloria!**

Sermon “A Sign from God”

Isaiah 7:10-14

Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

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.

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.**

**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.**

**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

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

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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

**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.**

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.**

**For all the faithful women
Who served in days of old,
To You shall thanks be given;
To all, their story told.
They served with strength and gladness
In tasks Your wisdom gave.
To You their lives bore witness,
Proclaimed Your pow'r to save.**

Mary, Mother of Our Lord (Luke 1:26–38)

**We sing of Mary, mother,
Fair maiden, full of grace.
She bore the Christ, our brother,
Who came to save our race.
May we, with her, surrender
Ourselves to Your command
And lay upon Your altar
Our gifts of heart and hand.**

**O God, for saints and servants,
Those named and those unknown
In whom through all the ages
Your light of glory shone,
We offer glad thanksgiving
And fervent prayer we raise
That, faithful in Your service,
Our lives may sing Your praise.**

**All praise to God the Father!
All praise to Christ the Son!
All praise the Holy Spirit,
Who binds the Church in one!
With saints who went before us,
With saints who witness still,
We sing glad Alleluias
And strive to do Your will.**

Postlude