

SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
4873 Cleveland Road Wooster, Ohio 44691



*Building Faith by Praying for God's Guidance, Hearing God's Word,
Sharing God's Grace, Serving God's Children*

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March 20, 2024

Holden Evening Prayer Service

Marty Haugen

Holden Evening Prayer is a vespers service that was written during the winter of 1985-1986 while my family and I were living at Holden Village in the North Cascade Mountains of Washington state. The community living there that winter sang through (and commented upon) many revisions of each part of the service; in that sense, this is the most collaborative project I have ever done.

I believe the durability and longevity of this evening prayer is due, in part, to having created the setting for that specific community, with their active participation in the process. The original edition written that winter is still for sale in the Holden bookstore under the title Vespers '86 (as it was intended for the worship of that particular season.)

Marty Haugen
November 29, 2015

We Gather in God's Name

P: Pastor/Lay C: **Congregation** L: Lector A: Song Leader

Prelude

Welcome

Service of Light (sung)

A: Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world,

C: **The light no darkness can overcome.**

A: Stay with us now, for it is evening,

C: **and the day is almost over.**

A: Let your light scatter the darkness,

C: **and shine within your people here.**

Evening Hymn

C: Joyous light of heavenly glory,
loving glow of God's own face,
you who sing creation's story,
shine on every land and race.
Now as evening falls around us,
we shall raise our songs to you.
God of day break, God of shadows,
come and light our hearts a new.

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 a sunder,
set us free and make us whole.

You who made the heaven's splendor,
every 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 *(sung)*

P: May God be with you all,

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us sing our thanks to God.

C: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

A: 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.

C: **Amen**

(be seated)

Psalmody, Readings and Canticles

Psalm 141*(sung)*

Refrain:

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

Verse 1:

**O God, I call to you,
Come to me now;
O hear my voice when I cry to you,**

Verse 2:

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

Verse 3:

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

(silence for reflection)

P: Let us pray,
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.

C: **Amen**

Psalm 51 (sung)

**C: O Faithful God,
have mercy on your servant here;
in your love, remember not my sins.
In the waters of your grace, wash me clean of all disgrace;
raise me up to life from death and fear.**

**I know my deeds, I know my faults and failings well;
I have sinned and broken faith with you.
For the wrong that I have done,
my transgressions, every one,
God your judgement would be just and true.**

**You long for truth, for wisdom dwelling deep within;
teach my heart to long for wisdom to:
Wash me clean and give me voice,
so these bones you crushed rejoice;
turn my heart from sin to life in you.**

**Create in me a clean and righteous heart, O God,
put a willing spirit in my soul.
Let me sing with joy anew the salvation found in you,
singing praise to you who made me whole.**

(silence for reflection)

**P: Holy One,
You are steadfast love and abundant mercy
to all who turn to you.
Create within us hearts of love and compassion.
Place in us spirits that are eager to live with integrity.
Give us voice to sing to you with gratitude
And proclaim you with courage and conviction.
We ask this through Jesus, the Christ.**

C: Amen

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

L: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

(silence for reflection)

Second Reading

Hebrews 5:5-10

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; ⁶as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

L: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

(silence for reflection)

P: The Light shines in the darkness

C: **and the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Annunciation(sung)

A: 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 (sung)

(please stand)

Luke 1:46-55

**C: 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 for evermore.**

**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 Prayers (sung) (please be seated)

(all sing this continuously)

C: Hmm. God of mercy, hold us in love.

A: In peace, in peace, we pray to you;

For peace and salvation, we pray to you;

For peace between nations, for peace between peoples;

For us who are gathered to worship and praise you;

For all of your servants who live out your gospel;

For all those who govern, that justice might guide them;

For all those who labor in service to others;

Grant weather that nourishes all of creation;

Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger;

For all the beloved who rest in your mercy;

Help us, comfort us, all of our days;

C: Keep us, hold us, gracious God.

(silence for reflection)

Closing Prayers

P: Let us pray,
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.

C: **Amen**

P: God, remember us in your love 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.**

(silence for reflection)

Final Blessing

P: Let us bless our God:

C: **Praise and thanks to you.**

A: 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.

C: **Amen.**

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Sandy Smith

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Study – Pastor Nathan is continuing his Bible Study on Sunday mornings. Join him on Zoom, in person in the Pastors office, or watch it on Facebook Livestream every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.

Your Talents are Needed/Wanted Here - If you are willing and able to assist as an Usher, Lector, Altar Guild, or Communion Assistant, please contact anyone on the worship team or call the office and we will add you to the rotation. If you have a beautiful voice or are musically inclined, see Tim about performing a solo or duet some Sunday.

People-to-People - All gifts received this evening will go to People-to-People ministries in Wooster Ohio. Please place your gift in the offering plate near the lower-level exit.

