

# Thursday Evening Prayer

2024 PAM Worship & Music Conference



*Welcome to this service of evening prayer.*

*All of the scriptures relate to the theme of home and all of the hymns are from the Psalms of Ascent.*

*There are brief times of silence for reflection and opportunities for personal prayer.*

*As the service begins, a candle may be lighted.*

## OPENING SENTENCES

*All may stand as the opening sentences are said.*

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening  
**and the day is almost over.**

Luke 24:29

Surely the Lord is in this place, and we did not know it.  
This is none other than the house of God,  
and this is the gate of heaven.

Gen. 28:16–17

*As the hymn is sung, other candles may be lighted.*

## HYMN

O Come and Bless the Lord (Psalm 134)

FESTAL SONG

1. O come and bless the Lord, you min - is - ters of grace.  
2. O come and bless the Lord; keep watch through - out the night.  
3. O come and bless the Lord; lift up your hands and pray.  
4. O come and bless the Lord, as all cre - a - tion sings

The bless-ing of the Ho - ly One is in this ver - y place.  
The bless-ing of the Ho - ly One will be your guid - ing light.  
The bless-ing of the Ho - ly One will send you on your way.  
the bless-ing of the Ho - ly One, the mak - er of all things.



## THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

In the beginning, O God,  
you spoke, "Let there be light,"  
creating this world, our home.

In the fullness of time,  
your Word came to dwell among us,  
the light of life for all people.

Throughout the ages,  
you have given us light for the journey,  
a pillar of fire to guide our way.

Now lead us to our eternal home  
in your realm of endless light,  
that we may greet your new creation  
and sing your praise forever;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



1. How blest are you who serve the Lord and fol - low in God's ways;  
 2. In time the Lord will sure - ly bless your home and fam - i - ly  
 3. The bless - ing you have en - tered here is your e - ter - nal home.  
 4. The Lord be with you all your days, as life and love in - crease,

your la - bor will be your re - ward and long will be your days.  
 with hap - pi - ness and faith - ful - ness, like ol - ives on a tree.  
 Je - ru - sa - lem will still be near wher - ev - er you may roam.  
 and keep you in the ho - ly ways of God's e - ter - nal peace.

*Silence follows for reflection.*

Faithful God, you have taught us  
 to keep your word and follow your way.  
 Help us to live and grow in faith  
 that we may bear good fruit;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*All may be seated.*



**SCRIPTURE** Hebrews 11:1–2, 13–16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ... All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, God has prepared a city for them.

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence follows for reflection.*



**HYMN** From the Depths, O God, I Call You (Psalm 130)

KAS DZIEDAJA



1. From the depths, O God, I call you— will you lis - ten to my cry?
2. If you coun - ted our of - fens - es, lov - ing Sav - ior, who could stand?
3. I am wait - ing, I am long - ing for a word of sav - ing grace.
4. From the depths, O God, I call you— look with kind - ness from a - bove.



To the heav - ens I am sing - ing: hear my prayer, O God Most High.  
But my hope is in your mer - cy and my life is in your hand.  
More than those who watch for morn - ing, liv - ing God, I seek your face.  
O Re - deem - er, come with pow - er and re - veal your stead - fast love.



## THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Great are you, O Lord,  
and greatly to be praised.

Augustine, *Confessions*

Especially we give you thanks for  
the community of the church ...  
the gifts of worship and music ...  
the beauty of your creation ...  
the love of family and friends ...  
those who have served us this day ...

*For what else do we give thanks?*

O Lord, our hearts are restless  
until they find their rest in you.

Especially we pray for  
the church of Christ in every place ...  
peace and justice in the world ...  
the healing of creation ...  
loved ones who are suffering ...  
neighbors who are in need ...

*For what else do we pray?*

*There may be silent prayer.*

Lead us homeward, living God,  
that we may be strangers no more,  
but citizens of your heavenly realm;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer is said in the language of your homeland.*

**HYMN****In Times of Trouble and Distress (Psalm 121)**

MC KEE

1. In times of trou - ble and dis - tress I lift my eyes and see—  
 2. The Lord will meas - ure out your steps and guide you through each test—  
 3. The Lord will cov - er you with grace and show you what is right—  
 4. The Lord will keep you safe from harm and see you through the door—

the mak - er of the earth and stars is watch - ing o - ver me.  
 un - til the saints are safe - ly home our God will nev - er rest.  
 a ref - uge in the heat of day, a shel - ter in the night.  
 your go - ing out and com - ing in for now and ev - er - more.

**DISMISSAL**Let us walk in the light of the Lord. **Amen.***Isa. 2:5*Bless the Lord. **The Lord's name be praised.***A sign of peace may be exchanged by all.*

**SCRIPTURE** New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition, National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America, © 2021.

**LITURGY** David Gambrell, 2024 for the Presbyterian Association of Musicians.

**HYMNS** "O Come and Bless the Lord" (Psalm 134): text by David Gambrell, © 2023; music by William H. Walter, 1894. "How Blest Are You Who Serve the Lord" (Psalm 128): text by David Gambrell, © 2023; music from *A Collection of Hymns and Sacred Poems*, 1749. "From the Depths, O God, I Call You" (Psalm 130): text by David Gambrell, © 2023; music is a Latvian melody. "In Times of Trouble and Distress" (Psalm 121): text by David Gambrell, © 2023; music is an African American spiritual from *Jubilee Songs*, 1884; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1940.

**ARTWORK** Red icons by Martha Kelly for the *Book of Common Worship* (WJKP, 2018).