

# 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.**





MONDAY PSALM

How Very Good It Is (Psalm 133)

DENNIS

1. How ver - y good it is when peo - ple  
 2. Like pre - cious, scent - ed oil a - noint - ing  
 3. Like moun - tains drenched with rain from heav - en's  
 4. How ver - y good it is when peo - ple

live in peace! When all God's child - ren  
 Aa - ron's crown, like heal - ing balm, - ren  
 end - less store, the Ho - ly One pours  
 live in peace! When all God's child - ren

live as one faith, hope, and love in - crease.  
 head to toe the of life of God flows down.  
 out the gift of life for - ev - er - more.  
 live as one faith, hope, and love in - crease.

*Silence follows for reflection.*

Loving God, you have called us  
to be a sign of your reconciling work.  
Pour out the blessing of your Spirit,  
that we may live in unity and peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*All may be seated.*

TUESDAY PSALM    O Lord, How We Have Suffered (Psalm 132)    PASSION CHORALE

1. O Lord, how we have suf - fered, en - dur - ing eve - ry test.  
 2. Rise up, O Lord, to en - ter the tem - ple of your might,  
 3. This is your sanc - tu - ar - y and here you will re - side:

“Un - til our God finds ref - uge we will not take our rest.”  
 where priests are clothed with jus - tice and saints sing with de - light.  
 a rest - ing - place for - ev - er, where heav - en will a - bide.

Now Zi - on is your dwell - ing, Je - ru - sa - lem, your home;  
 Re - call your words to Da - vid; do not con - ceal your face.  
 Your glo - ry is our glad - ness; your prov - i - dence, our bread;

and so we come to wor - ship, re - joic - ing at your throne.  
 Be faith - ful to your prom - ise; re - deem us by your grace.  
 the gift of your sal - va - tion, a crown up - on our head.

*Silence follows for reflection.*

Holy God, you have risen to reign  
 from your eternal, heavenly throne.  
 Look upon your people with favor,  
 that we may lift our hearts in praise;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*All may be seated.*

1. I look to you a - lone, O Lord; with hum - ble heart I wait,  
 2. My soul is calm and qui - et now; no long - er do I thirst  
 3. O peo - ple of the liv - ing God, our hope is in the Lord;

for - sak - ing high and ho - ly things, the mar - vel - ous and great.  
 for com - fort from my moth - er's milk; I seek your pres - ence first.  
 in God a - lone we put our trust, now and for - ev - er - more.

*Silence follows for reflection.*

Gentle God, you have embraced us  
 in the tenderness of your mercy.  
 Nourish us by your holy word,  
 that we may live in faith, hope, and love;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*All may be seated.*

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.*

1. When the Lord made all things new it was like a dream come true—  
 2. Hum - bled now, the na - tions say, "God has smiled on them to - day!"  
 3. Show - er us with mer - cy, Lord, that our lives may be re - stored.  
 4. Shame and sor - row sent us out; now we dance and sing and shout.

shame and sor - row in the past, laugh-ter on our lips at last.  
 Yes, the Lord has done great things; that is why we laugh and sing.  
 Where we plant - ed seeds of grief bring the har - vest of re - lief.  
 Weep - ing, we went out to roam; laugh-ing, God will lead us home.

*Silence follows for reflection.*

Saving God, you have promised us  
 that the day of redemption is coming soon.  
 Bring your wandering people home at last,  
 that we may laugh and sing with joy;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*All may be seated.*



**MONDAY SCRIPTURE** Deuteronomy 6:4–9

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

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

*Silence follows for reflection.*

**TUESDAY SCRIPTURE** Zephaniah 3:14, 17–20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ... I am the Lord, your God, and I am in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; I will rejoice over you with gladness; I will renew you with my love; I will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

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

*Silence follows for reflection.*

**WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURE** 2 Corinthians 5:1, 5–9

For we know that, if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ... The one who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a down payment. So we are always confident, even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to be pleasing to the Lord.

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

*Silence follows for reflection.*



**THURSDAY 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.*

**FRIDAY SCRIPTURE**      Revelation 21:1–5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as one adorned for a wedding. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them; they will be the people of God, and God will be with them and be their God; God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.”

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

Augustine, *Confessions*

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

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 ...

*Monday* that we may love and serve you  
with heart, mind, soul, and strength;  
*Tuesday* that we may rejoice in your great love  
and join the song of our salvation;  
*Wednesday* that we may follow you faithfully  
all the way to our eternal home;  
*Thursday* that we may be strangers no more,  
but citizens of your heavenly realm;  
*Friday* that we may feast with you in glory  
at the wedding of heaven and earth;

... 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.*

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