

97th Anniversary of St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Holden Evening Prayer · July 15, 2020
Asheville, North Carolina



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On July 15, 1923, eighteen Lutherans, meeting together at the Asheville YMCA, founded the congregation of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. The cornerstone for our church building was laid on Easter Sunday 1932, and the first service was held on May 22, 1932. Six years later a parsonage was built, and a pipe organ installed. By our 25th anniversary in 1945 the mortgage was paid off, and the congregation's status as a mission congregation was ended. A special emphasis during this time was ministry to families traumatized World War II. In 1953, an addition was built including new downstairs classrooms and a kitchen, and in 1968 the project was completed with the dedication of the enlarged chancel and new stained glass windows. St. Mark's became a part of the Lutheran Church in America in 1962, the same year that a mission congregation, Nativity in Arden, was begun by a son of St. Mark's. In 1967 the word "male" was eliminated from the constitutional requirements for council members. Margaret Alsobrooks, Ruth Luca, and Alice Templeton were the first women to serve on our church council. A congregational study in the '70s revealed the need to expand facilities and to become handicap accessible. These and other goals were realized with a dedication on December 10, 1989. Two years earlier our current denominational body came into being, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In 1996 the congregation recognized the need for a more welcoming worship space that would better reflect our spirit as we moved into the 21st century, which resulted in the Commons, worship in community around a free-standing altar, an elevator, and the new Martin Ott tracker organ. Just a few years ago the congregation committed to another building campaign which has renovated office, classroom, gathering, and work spaces, and will allow us to host an early childhood development center. As we move toward a century of witness in Asheville, let us rejoice in the witness of those who have gone before us, thank God for the gifts we have been given, and continue to serve our neighbors and share the light of Christ. Soli Deo Gloria!

Service of Light

Leader:

Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

All:

the light no darkness can o - ver - come;

Leader:

Stay with us now, for it is evening,

All:

and the day is al - most over.

Leader:

Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

All:

and shine within your peo - ple here. —

Evening Hymn

All: a tempo



1. Joy - ous light of heav - 'nly glo - ry, lov - ing
2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the
3. You who made the heav - en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry



glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's
blaz - ing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and
danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle



sto - ry, shine on ev - 'ry land and race. Now as
wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that
jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y



eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to
fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry
God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our



you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and
soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us
way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us



light our hearts a - new. _____
free and make us whole. _____
on to end - less day. _____

Evening Thanksgiving

Leader: *All:*

May God be with you all, and al - so with you;

Leader:

Let us sing our thanks to ——— God,

All:

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: 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:

A - - - - - men.

Prayer

O God, you have promised through your Son to be with your church forever. We give you thanks for those who founded this community of believers and for the signs of your presence in our congregation. Increase in us the spirit of faith and love, and make our fellowship an example to all believers and to all nations.

We pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Psalm 141

Refrain

All

Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be - fore you, the

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

Verse 1

Leader or Group One

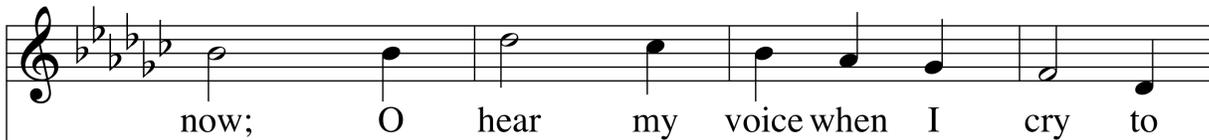


1. O God, I call to you, come to me

All or Group Two



1. O God, I



now; O hear my voice when I cry to



call to you, come to me now; O hear my

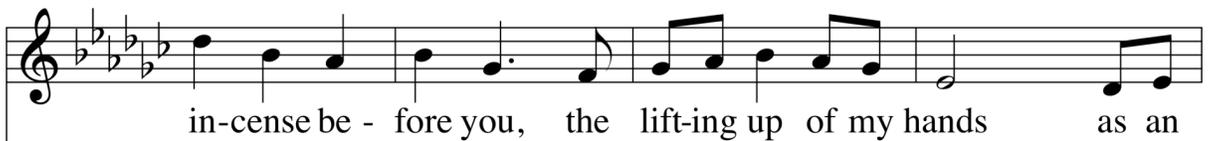
Refrain



you. Let my prayer rise up like



voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise

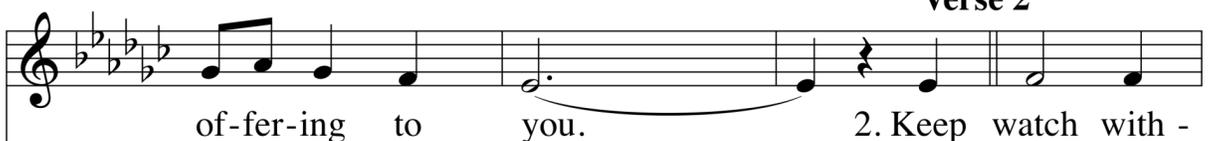


in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an



up like in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my

Verse 2



of-fer-ing to you. 2. Keep watch with -



hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

in me, God; deep in my heart may the light of your

2. Keep watch with - in me, God; deep in my

love be burn - ing bright.

heart may the light of your love be burn - ing

Refrain

Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be - fore you, the

bright. Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be -

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to

Verse 3

3. All praise to the God of all, Cre - a - tor of

you. 3. All praise to the

life; all praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of
 God of all, Cre - a - tor of life; all praise be to

Refrain

love. Let my prayer rise up like
 Christ and the Spir-it of love. Let my prayer rise

in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an
 up like in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my

of - fer-ing to you.
 hands as an of - fer-ing to you.

Psalm Prayer

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

Ephesians 4: 7-8, 11-16

Each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said,

"When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;
he gave gifts to his people."

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Hymn

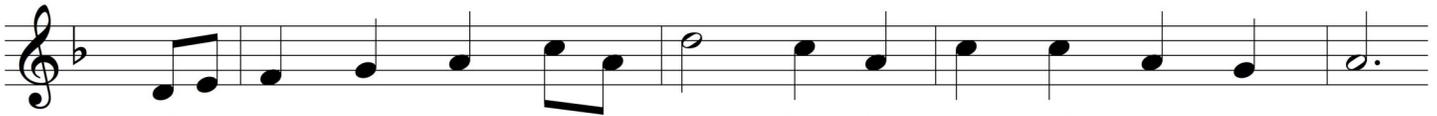
"By All Your Saints"



1. By all your saints still striv - ing, for all your saints at rest,
2. For Mark, O - Lord, we praise you, whose faint - ing heart, made strong,
3. A - pos - tles, proph - ets, mar - tyrs, and all the no - ble thron'
4. Give praise to God the Fath - er, and wor - ship God the Son,



your ho - ly name, O Je - sus, for - ev - er - more be blessed!
poured forth the faith - ful Gos - pel to an - i - mate our song.
who wear the spot - less rai - ment and raise the cease - less song:
and sing to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One,



For you a - rose vic - to - rious that they might wear the crown
May we in all our weak - ness, re - ceive your pow'r di - vine,
for these passed on be - fore us, we sing our praise a - new
till all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,



and share the light of glo - ry re - flect - ed from your throne.
and all, as fruit - ful branch - es, grow strong in you, the vine.
and, walk - ing in their foot - steps, would live our lives for you.
and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone.

Text: Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823-1913, alt
Music: English folk tune

KING'S LYNN
7 6 7 6 D

The Annunciation

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."

The Magnificat



All:

1., 3. My — soul pro - claims your
2. You have cast the might - y

great - ness, O God, and my spir - it re - joic - es in
down from their thrones, and up - lift - ed the hum - ble of

you, You have looked with love on your
heart, You have filled the hun - gry with

ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,

strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,

How you fa - vor the weak — and low - ly one,
As you prom - ised to Sar - ah and A - bra - ham,

hum - bling the proud of heart.
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

Litany and Prayers

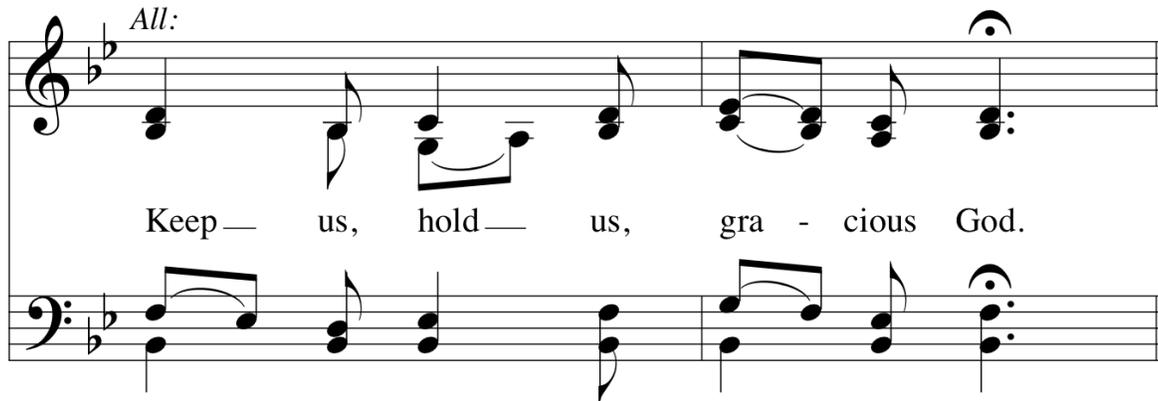
A *Repeat continuously*

Leader:



Help us, com - fort us, all of our days:

All:



Keep — us, hold — us, gra - cious God.

Lord's Prayer

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

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come:
your will be done**

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**



Final Blessing

Leader: *All:*



Let us bless our God: praise and thanks to you.

Presider:



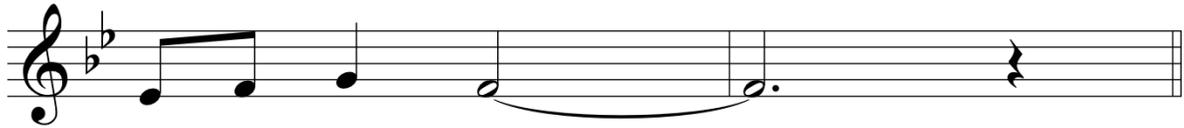
May God, Cre - a - tor bless us and keep us, may



Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the

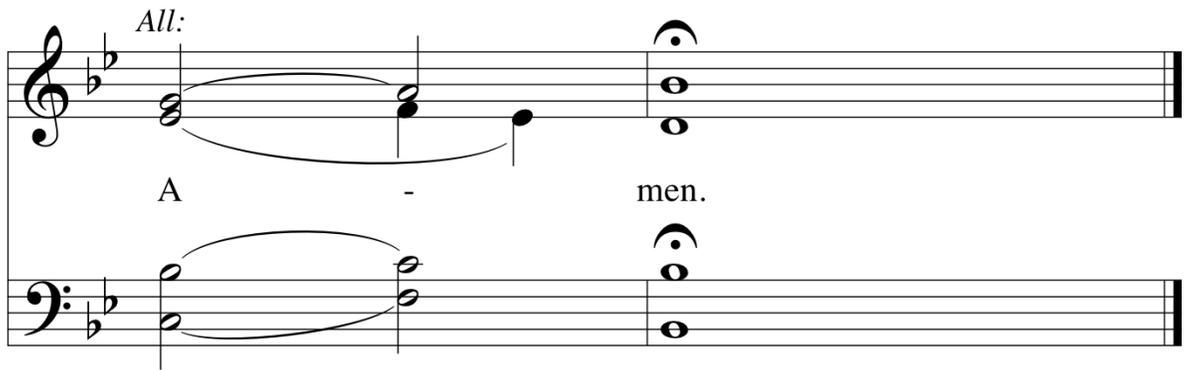


Spir - it of Love be our guide and path, for



all of our days. _____

All:



A - men.

Sharing the Peace