

✠ The Office of Compline ✠

March 26, 2025

The congregation assembles in silence.

Stand

Opening Versicles

LSB 253

L The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

C Amen.

L It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

C to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

L to herald Your love in the morning,

C Your truth at the close of the day.

Confession

Exhortation

LSB 254

L Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 254

L I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

C The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.

- C** I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.
- L** The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.
- C** Amen.

Stand

Psalm

Psalm 143

- ¹Hear my prayer, O LORD;
give ear to my pleas for | mercy!*
- In your faithfulness answer me, in your | righteousness!
- ²**Enter not into judgment with your | servant,***
for no one living is righteous be- | fore you.
- ³For the enemy has pursued my soul;
he has crushed my life | to the ground;*
- he has made me sit in darkness like | those long dead.
- ⁴**Therefore my spirit faints with- | in me;***
my heart within me | is appalled.
- ⁵I remember the days of old;
I meditate on all that | you have done;*
- I ponder the work | of your hands.
- ⁶**I stretch out my | hands to you;***
my soul thirsts for you like a | parched land.
- ⁷Answer me quickly, O LORD!
My | spirit fails!*
- Hide not your face from me,
lest I be like those who go down | to the pit.
- ⁸**Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love,**
for in | you I trust.*

**Make me know the way I should go,
for to you I lift | up my soul.**

⁹Deliver me from my enemies, | O LORD!*
I have fled to you for | refuge!

¹⁰**Teach me to do your will,
for you | are my God!***

**Let your good Spirit lead me
on | level ground!**

¹¹For your name's sake, O LORD, pre- | serve my life!*
In your righteousness bring my soul out of | trouble!

¹²**And in your steadfast love you will cut off my | enemies,*
and you will destroy all the adversaries of my soul,
for I am your | servant.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Sit

Hymn: “O Christ, You Walked the Road”

LSB 424

- 1 O Christ, You walked the road
Our wand'ring feet must go.
You faced with us temptation's pow'r
And fought our ancient foe.
- 2 No bread of earth alone
Can fill our hung'ring hearts.
Lord, help us seek Your living Word,
The food Your grace imparts.
- 3 No blinding sign we ask,
No wonder from above.

Lord, help us place our trust alone
In Your unswerving love.

4 When lures of easy gain
With promise brightly shine,
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first;
Our wills with Yours align.

5 O Christ, You walked the road
Our wand'ring feet must go.
Stay with us through temptation's hour
To fight our ancient foe.

Readings from Holy Scripture

First Reading

Genesis 3:1-14

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

¹⁰And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹²The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,
“Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

¹⁶To the woman he said,
“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you.”

¹⁷And to Adam he said,
“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;

for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

²⁰The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

²²Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” ²³therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Silence for reflection.

Second Reading

1 Peter 5:6–11

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Silence for reflection.

Third Reading

Luke 9:37–43; 11:14–23

³⁷On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. ³⁹And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses

him so that he foams at the mouth; and shatters him, and will hardly leave him. ⁴⁰And I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” ⁴¹Jesus answered, “O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” ⁴²While he was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and convulsed him. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ⁴³And all were astonished at the majesty of God.

But while they were all marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples,

¹⁴Now he was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. ¹⁵But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,” ¹⁶while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²²but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. ²³Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

Silence for reflection.

Responsory

LSB 255

L Into Your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

C Into Your hands I commend my spirit.

L You have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

C Into Your hands I commend my spirit.

- L** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
C **Into Your hands I commend my spirit.**

Office Hymn: “In God, My Faithful God”

LSB 745

- 1 In God, my faithful God,
I trust when dark my road;
Great woes may overtake me,
Yet He will not forsake me.
My troubles He can alter;
His hand lets nothing falter.
- 2 My sins fill me with care,
Yet I will not despair.
I build on Christ, who loves me;
From this rock nothing moves me.
To Him I will surrender,
To Him, my soul’s defender.
- 3 If death my portion be,
It brings great gain to me;
It speeds my life’s endeavor
To live with Christ forever.
He gives me joy in sorrow,
Come death now or tomorrow.
- 4 O Jesus Christ, my Lord,
So meek in deed and word,
You suffered death to save us
Because Your love would have us
Be heirs of heav’nly gladness
When ends this life of sadness.
- 5 “So be it,” then, I say
With all my heart each day.

Dear Lord, we all adore You,
We sing for joy before You.
Guide us while here we wander
Until we praise You yonder.

Homily: *“The Hand of the Lord Who Casts Out Demons”* Rev. Len Astrowski

Stand

Prayer

Versicles

LSB 256

- L** Hear my prayer, O Lord;
- C** **listen to my cry.**

- L** Keep me as the apple of Your eye;
- C** **hide me in the shadow of Your wings.**

- L** In righteousness I shall see You;
- C** **when I awake, Your presence will give me joy.**

Collects

- L** Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and drive from them all the snares of the enemy; let Your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let Your blessing be on us always; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

- L** Almighty God, Your mighty hand, revealed in Jesus Christ, defeats the power of Satan and sets us free. We confess our weakness, our inability to break free from the devil's grasp. Thank You for sending Your Son, who crushed the serpent's head and rescued us from captivity. By His Word, He shatters the strong

man's hold, placing us under Your protective hand. Grant us faith to trust in Your power, and to cast all our anxieties upon You. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

L Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

L O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 257

L Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C Our Father who art in heaven,

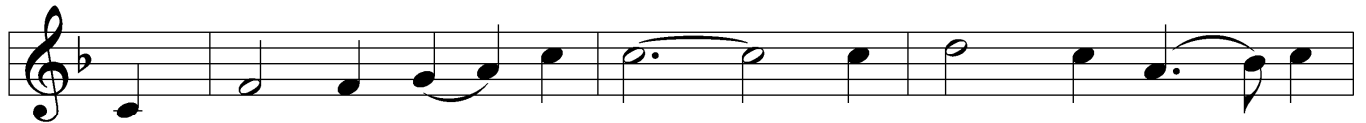
**hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done on earth
 as it is in heaven;
 give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For Thine is the kingdom
 and the power and the glory
 forever and ever. Amen.**

Nunc Dimittis

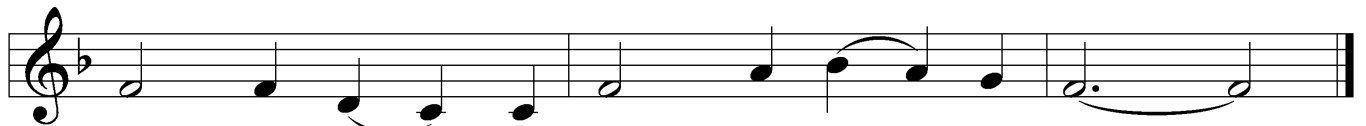
L Guide us waking, O Lord,
 and guard us sleeping
 that awake we may watch with Christ
 and asleep we may rest in peace.



1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,
 2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,
 △ 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,



Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -
 The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing
 To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and



va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
 in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.
 Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.

C Amen.

Hymn to Depart: *“O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe”*

LSB 666

- 1 O little flock, fear not the foe
Who madly seeks your overthrow;
Dread not his rage and pow’r.
And though your courage sometimes faints,
His seeming triumph o’er God’s saints
Lasts but a little hour.
- 2 Be of good cheer; your cause belongs
To Him who can avenge your wrongs;
Leave it to Him, our Lord.
Though hidden yet from mortal eyes,
His Gideon shall for you arise,
Uphold you and His Word.
- 3 As true as God’s own Word is true,
Not earth nor hell’s satanic crew
Against us shall prevail.
Their might? A joke, a mere facade!
God is with us and we with God—
Our vict’ry cannot fail.
- 4 Amen, Lord Jesus, grant our prayer;
Great Captain, now Thine arm make bare,
Fight for us once again!
So shall Thy saints and martyrs raise
A mighty chorus to Thy praise
Forevermore. Amen.

Acknowledgments

Compline from Lutheran Service Book

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