

The Lutheran Church of St. Mark  
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## EVENING PRAYER

*Vespers*

### DIALOGUE

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,  
**the light no darkness can overcome.**

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

Let your light scatter the darkness  
**and illumine your church.**

### PSALMODY

Let my prayer rise before you as incense;  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

**O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly;  
hear my voice when I cry to you.**

Let my prayer rise before you as incense;  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

**Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,  
and guard the door of my lips.**

Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;  
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.

**But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God;  
in you I take refuge. Strip me not of my life.**

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

Let my prayer rise before you as incense;  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

*A time of silence is kept for meditation.*

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before you, O Lord, and let  
your loving kindness descend upon us, that with purified minds we may sing  
your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may  
glorify you forever and ever. **Amen**

## SCRIPTURE READING

*A scripture passage from Mark is read.*

## LESSON

*A reading from Devotions: The Selected Poems of Mary Oliver is read.*

*A time of silence follows the reading. The leader then continues:*

In many and various ways God spoke to his people of old by the prophets.  
**But now in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.**

## GOSPEL CANTICLE

*Magnificat*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
**for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed.

**The Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.

**He has shown the strength of his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.

**He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
**the promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children forever.**

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

## THE LITANY

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the health of the creation, for abundant harvests that all may share, and for  
peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For public servants, the government, and those who protect us; for those who  
work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection in this and every place,  
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For ..... and all those who are sick and suffering, and for those who are in  
captivity, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray  
to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest,  
let us give thanks to the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*A time of silence follows.*

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord. **To you, O Lord.**

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected us today. We ask you to forgive us all our sins, where we have done wrong, and graciously to protect us tonight. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. **Amen**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

## BENEDICTION

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Almighty God, the Father, † the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us. **Amen**



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