

Evening Prayer

Vespers



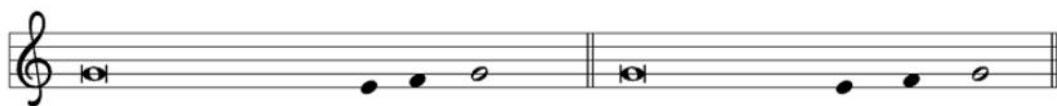
Opening

The assembly stands. A large, lighted candle may be carried to its place.

A dialogue may accompany or follow the procession. When it is sung, the following or a similar tone may be used, the assembly echoing the leader.



Jesus Christ is the light of the world, **the light no darkness can o - ver - come.**



Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening, **and the day is al - most over.**



Let your light scat - ter the darkness **and illu - mine your church.**

OR

One of the following dialogues may be sung to the above or a similar tone.

General

God is our light and | our salvation,
our refuge | and our stronghold.
 From the rising of the sun | to its setting,
we praise your | name, O God.
 For with you is the foun- | tain of life,
and in your light | we see light.

Advent

The Spirit and the | church cry out:
Amen. | Come, Lord Jesus.
 All those who await
 his ap- | pearance pray:
Amen. | Come, Lord Jesus.
 The whole cre- | ation pleads:
Amen. | Come, Lord Jesus.

Christmas—Baptism of Our Lord

The light shines ¹ in the darkness,
and the darkness has not ¹ overcome it.
The Word became flesh and ¹ lived among us,
and we have be- ¹ held Christ's glory.
To us a child is born, to us a ¹ Son is given.
In the Word was life, and the life was the light ¹ of all people.

Lent

Behold, now is the accept- ¹ able time;
now is the day ¹ of salvation.
Turn us again, O God of ¹ our salvation,
that the light of your face
may ¹ shine on us.
May your justice shine ¹ like the sun;
and may the poor be ¹ lifted up.

Easter

Jesus Christ is risen ¹ from the dead.
Alleluia, alleluia, ¹ alleluia!
We are illumined
by the brightness ¹ of his rising.
Alleluia, alleluia, ¹ alleluia!
Death has no more dominion ¹ over us.
Alleluia, alleluia, ¹ alleluia!

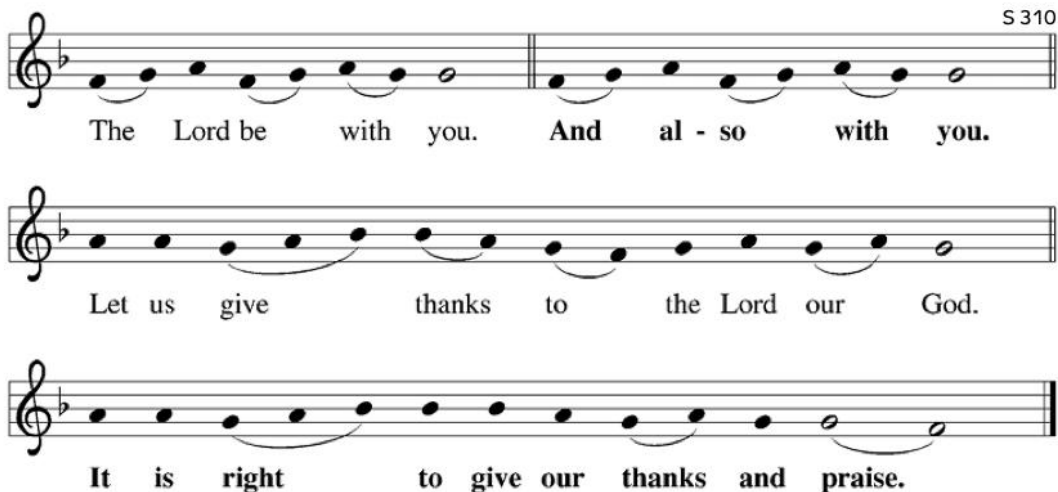
If the hymn of light and thanksgiving for light are omitted, the service continues with the psalmody on p. 312.

Hymn of Light

A hymn of praise to Christ the light (#229–231, 560–563) may be sung, during which candles may be lighted. When the large candle is used, other candles are lighted from its flame.

Thanksgiving for Light

The leader and the assembly give thanks, using the following or another appropriate form.

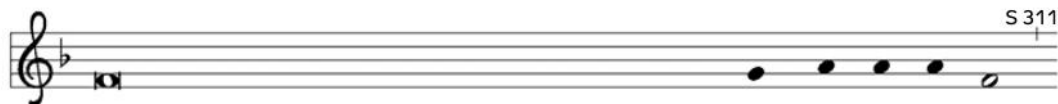


S 310

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.



We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light in - to being,



and you set lights in the sky to govern night and day.



In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night



you led your peo - ple in - to freedom.



Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ; may your Word be



a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are mer-ci - ful,



and you love your whole cre-a-tion, and with all your crea-tures we give you glory,



through your Son Je - sus Christ, in the unity of the Ho - ly Spirit,



now and for - ev - er. **A - men.**

The assembly is seated.

Psalmody

The psalmody begins with Psalm 141, a song of forgiveness and protection; Psalm 121; or another psalm appropriate for evening.

All S 312

Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;

the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac - ri - fice.

Group One or All

O Lord, I call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when

All

I cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;

the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac - ri - fice.

Group Two or All

Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.

Group One or All

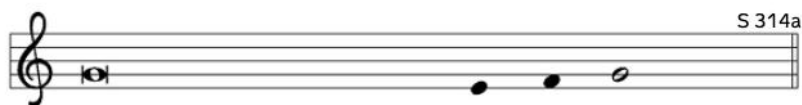
Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;

let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil -

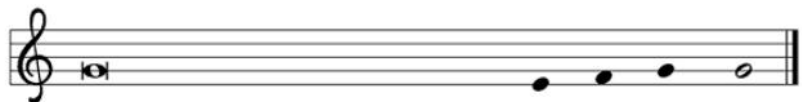
Group Two or All

do - ers. But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God;

The reflection may conclude with a scriptural dialogue. When it is sung, the following or a similar tone may be used, the assembly echoing the leader.

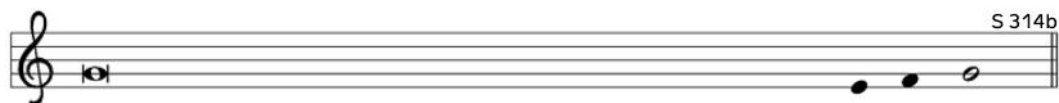


Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

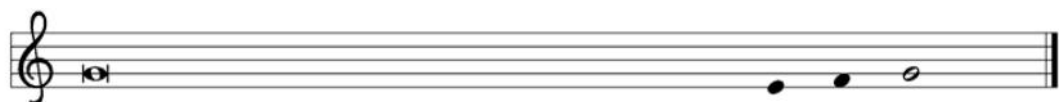


Whoever follows me will never walk in dark - ness.

OR



Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,



but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.

Gospel Cantic

The assembly stands to sing the gospel cantic for evening, the song of Mary, using the following or another musical version (#234–235; 251, 573, 723, 882).



My soul pro - claims the great - ness of the Lord, my



spir - it re - joic - es in God my Sav - ior.



1 My soul proclaims the great - ness of the Lord,
2 You have mer - cy on those who fear you,
3 You have filled the hun - gry with good things



my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
from generation to gen - er - ation.
and sent the rich a - way empty.



for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your low - ly servant.
You have shown . . . strength with your arm
You have come to the aid of your ser - vant Is - ra - el,



From this day all generations will call me bless'd:
and scattered the proud in their con - ceit,
to remember the prom - ise of mercy,



you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
casting down the might - y from their thrones
the promise made to our . . . fore - bears,



and holy is your name.
and lifting up the low - ly.
to Abraham and his chil - dren for - ev - er.

Refrain

Prayers

The assembly kneels or stands. The following litany or another form of the prayers may be sung or spoken.

S 316

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, 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 this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
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 those who travel, for 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 ¹ pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For name/s and all servants of the church, for this assembly,
and for all people who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy,
let us ¹ pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Other petitions may be added.

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

A time of silence follows.

Giving thanks for all who have gone before us and are at rest, rejoicing in the communion of name/s and all the saints, we commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to you,

The image shows a musical score for a prayer. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first part of the melody is: 'through Christ our Lord.' The second part is: 'To you, O Lord.' The bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment, mostly using chords and single notes.

The litany may be followed by one or more additional prayers.

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OR

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 our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

Amen.

OR

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 is sung or spoken.

S 318

Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-lowed be your name,
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav-en.
Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of tri-al
and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the king-dom, the pow'r,
and the glo-ry are yours, now and for-ev-er. A-men.

Blessing

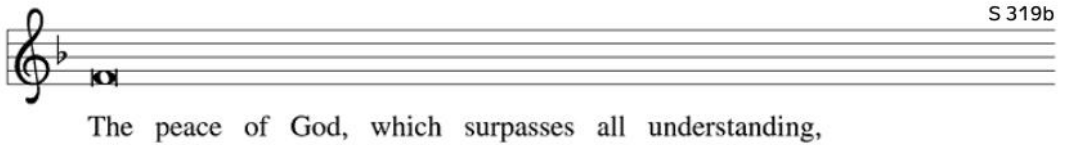
S 319a



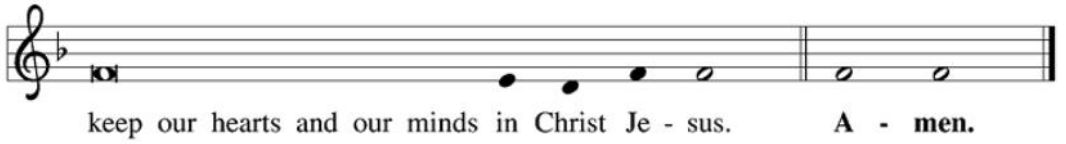
Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The leader continues:

S 319b



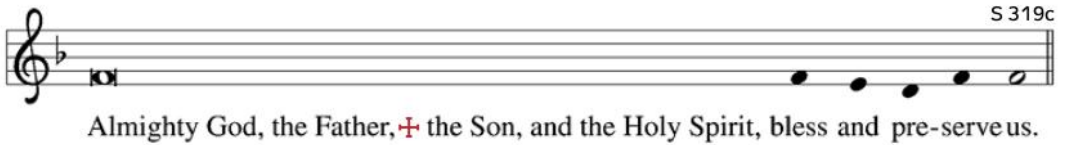
The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,



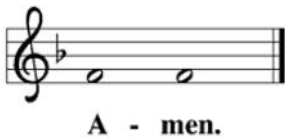
keep our hearts and our minds in Christ Je - sus. A - men.

OR

S 319c



Almighty God, the Father, † the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre-serve us.



A - men.

A hymn may be sung.

The greeting of peace may be shared by all.

