

LENTEN VESPERS

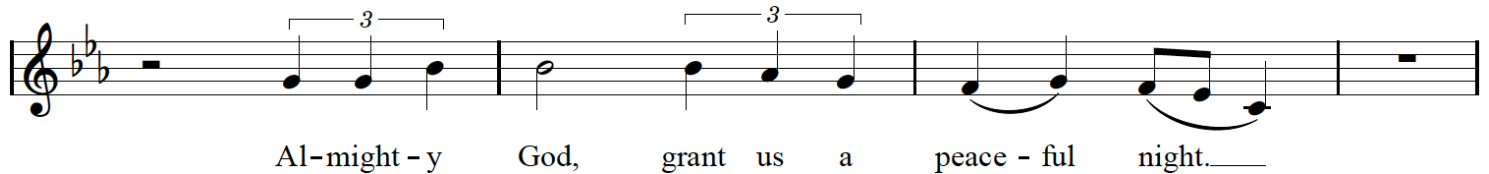
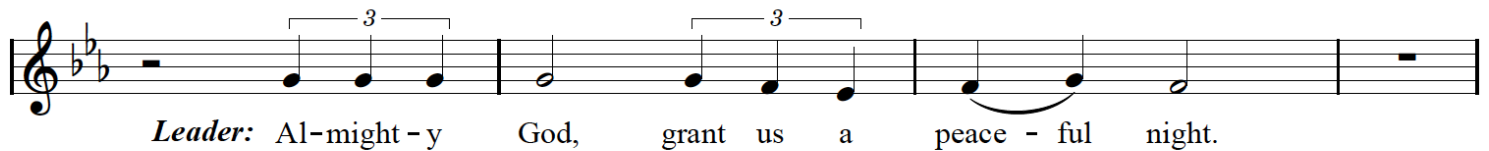
a collaboration of Woodlake Lutheran Church and House of Prayer Lutheran Church

This service was originally written and recorded as a digital album by Andy Pokel (Woodlake Lutheran, Richfield), Pr. Elise Pokel (Transfiguration Lutheran, Bloomington), and Pr. Jeni Grangaard (Luther Seminary) during Lent in 2021, and has since been updated for congregational worship. In these songs and prayers, you are invited to reflect on a series of conflicting identities that God knits together: Mary, the loving mother and faithful disciple of Christ; God, the unknowable Creator and tender Parent; and God's people, at once sinners and saints.

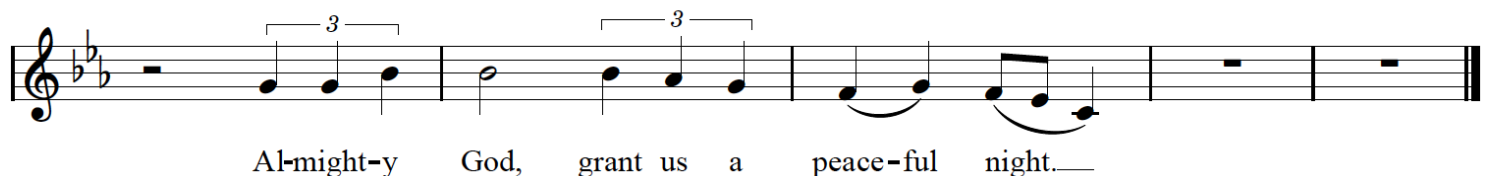
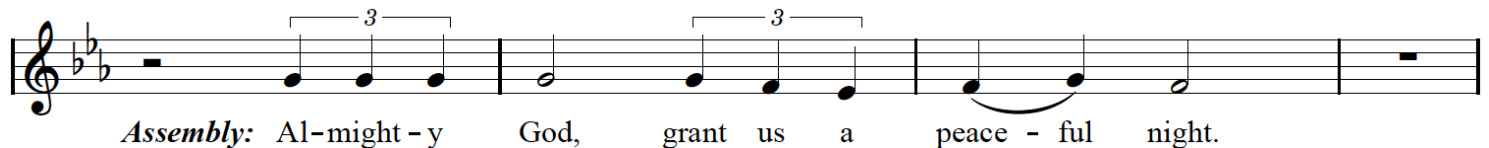
+ indicates you are to rise in body or spirit

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer and Dialogue



You are worthy of our praise,
silent prayer and loudest song.
You hear the questions that we raise,
when faith is weak and doubt is strong.
Your justice lights our path each day;
pillar of fire, pillar of smoke.
Your mercy makes a place to stay:
pillow of rest, blanket of hope.



Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Evening Hymn

My Song Is Love Unknown

ELW 343, adapted

1 My song is love un - known, my sav - ior's love for
2 Some - times we walk his way and his sweet prais - es
3 In life, no house nor home in which my Lord might
4 Love is my end - less song, no sto - ry so div -

me. Love for the love - less shown, that they might
sing; re - sound - ing all the day, hos - an - nas
rest. In death, no friend - ly tomb but what a
ine! There ne - ver was a love so strong, nor

love - ly be. Oh, who am I that
for our king. Then, "Cru - ci - fy!" is
stran - ger giv - eth. What may I say? Heav'n
grief deep as thine. This is my friend, in

for my sake, my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.
was his home, and mine the tomb in which he lay.
whose sweet praise I all my days would glad - ly spend.

Confession and Forgiveness

Holy Parent,

I confess that I've rejected the refuge you offer.

I confess that you see me, despite my efforts to hide.

I've fought with your children—my siblings in this holy family—
because I want to be right more than I want to be in right relationship.

My pride keeps my arms crossed and my heart closed.

I long for the comfort of your love,

yet I choose the familiarity of fear and shame.

Help me to trust that I can rest in your arms,
that you would shelter me under your wings like a mother hen.
**Forgive me for the ways I have rebelled against you
and wounded my neighbors in thought or deed.**

Remind me that you know what I need and gladly provide it.
Grant me the courage to imagine your Kingdom on earth.
Amen.

Hear this, beloved child of God:
God rejoices when you turn and return.
Search, and you will find.
Find, and you will be found.
Loosen your grip, that you may be more tightly held,
more warmly comforted, and more tenderly nourished.
Your stony heart will soften like the river's frozen mouth,
your stiff neck will relax to better see the pain around you.
The more you love, the more you will grieve,
but your grief will turn to joy.
God forgives your sins and remembers them no more.
In the name of the Holy Parent, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
receive this divine peace.
Amen.



Psalm 131

Verses 1 and 2



Leader 1 The day is done_____ and night has come;_____ I'll put a - way my cares.
Assembly 2 The sun has set,_____ its light is spent_____ there's no more time for chores.



Leader 1 You've heard my fears_____ and dried my tears_____ and count-ed all my hairs.
Assembly 2 You've felt my hurts_____ and seen my worst_____ and yet you call me yours.

Verse 3



Leader 3A Par - rent of all, an - swer my call, and make me safe in your arms.
Assem. 3B Your lull - a-bye, close - es my eyes and makes me rest safe from harm.

Coda



Assem. (hum)_____ (hum)_____

Psalm Prayer

Dear God,

You have called my name, offering rest and peace.

Gather me into your arms and hold me close.

Let me hear your reassuring heartbeat in my hour of prayer
and let it echo throughout my day.

Help me to make space for others who long to be gathered in.

Help me to find my hope and help in your capable love.

Amen.

+Hymn

Were You There?

ELW 353, adapted



Leader 1 Were you there when she dreamed a - bout her son,
Choir 2 Were you there when he would not sleep at all?
Assem. 3 Were you there when he cried out from the pain?
Choir 4 Were you there when she went to see the tomb?



and how those feet in her ribs would some - day run
Cut - ting teeth, grow - ing bone and try - ing to crawl.
Ma - ry held him in her heart and in her gaze.
Fold - ed hands, fold - ed lin - en emp - ty room.



o - ver the hills and in - to the trou - bled world?
All through the night, she held him a - gainst the world.
"Here is your son." "Here is your mo - ther."
She fell to her knees and lift - ed her hands to God.



She trem - bled, trem - bled, trem - bled.
He trem - bled, trem - bled, trem - bled.
They trem - bled, trem - bled, trem - bled.
She breathed in, breathed out, breathed in.



Were you there when she dreamed a - bout her son?
Were you there when he would not sleep at all?
Were you there when he cried out from the pain?
Were you there when she went to see the tomb?

First Reading

John 16:16-22, 33

Second Reading

Psalms 139: 1,7,3-16

Please be seated

Message

Pr. Eric Luedtke



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Prayers of the People

After each prayer petition, you will hear “Merciful God”

Please respond with “receive our prayer”

+The Lord's Prayer

1 Ho - ly Par - ent up a - bove,
 2 Fill our cup and fill our bowl.
 3 All the pow - er; all the might;

your name is Most High, you are Love.
 Please let your mer - cy o - ver - flow.
 all of the glo - ry, day and night;

Turn this greed - y world up - side down;
 Teach us how to love your cre - a - tion
 all be - long to you, and you on - ly.

turn this dust and dirt to ho - ly ground.
 with for - give - ness, mer - cy, hope, and pat - ience.
 You a - lone are ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly.

4 A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men,
 a - men, a - men, a - men, a - men.

Final Blessing

Julian of Norwich

In you, Father almighty, we have our preservation and our bliss.
 In you, Christ, we have our restoring and our saving.
 You are our mother, brother, and Savior.
 In you, our Lord the Holy Spirit, is marvelous and plenteous grace.
 You are our clothing; for love you wrap us and embrace us.
 You are our maker, our lover, our keeper.
 Teach us to believe that by your grace all shall be well,
 and all shall be well,
 and all manner of things shall be well.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Livestream

youtube.com/WoodlakeLutheranChurch



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House of Prayer Lutheran Church

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Richfield, MN 55423

Sunday Worship Times

Traditional – 9:00am, Sanctuary

Modern Worship – 10:30am, Fellowship Hall

Sunday Worship Times

Traditional – 9:30am, Sanctuary

ReFuel Contemporary – 11:00am, Parish Hall

Pastors Rev. Neal Cannon
Rev. Micah Pearson

Pastor Rev. Eric Luedtke

Worship & Music Dir. Andy Pokel

Worship & Music Dir. Roselyn Hanson

Musicians WLC & HOP Combined Choir

Tech. Volunteers Scott Dahlquist, Ken Mandl, Darren Berquist, Jean Kass, Kirsten Hargreaves

Building Engineer John Call

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