

# WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

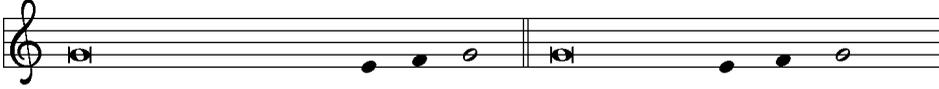
*For such  
a time as this.*



Midweek Lent Series using  
Evening Prayer

## DIALOG

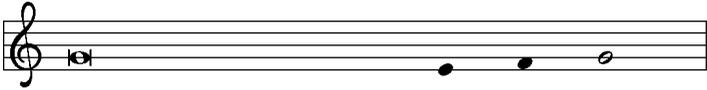
*The assembly stands. A large, white candle may be carried to its place. A dialogue may accompany or follow the procession. When it is sung, the following or a similar tone may be used, the assembly echoing the leader.*



Behold, now is the accept - a - ble time; now is the day of sal - vation.



Turn us again, O God of our sal - vation,



that the light of your face may shine on us.



May your justice shine like the sun; and may the poor be lift - ed up.

## HYMN OF LIGHT



- 1 All praise to thee, my God, this night for all the bless-ings of the light.
- 2 For - give me, Lord, for thy dear Son, the ill that I this day have done;
- 3 Teach me to live, that I may dread the grave as lit - tle as my bed.
- 4 Oh, may my soul in thee re - pose, and may sweet sleep mine eye-lids close,
- 5 Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise God, all crea-tures here be - low;



Keep me, oh, keep me, King of kings, be - neath thine own al - might - y wings.  
that with the world, my - self, and thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.  
Teach me to die, that so I may rise glo - rious at the awe - some day.  
sleep that shall me more vig - rous make to serve my God when I a - wake!  
praise God a - bove, ye heav' - n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.



\* May be sung in canon.

## THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

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



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

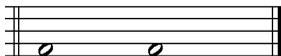


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning you called light into being,  
and you set light 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 people into 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 merciful,  
and you love your whole creation,  
and with all your creatures we give you glory,  
through your Son Jesus Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever.



**A - men.**

# EVENING PSALM

All



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;

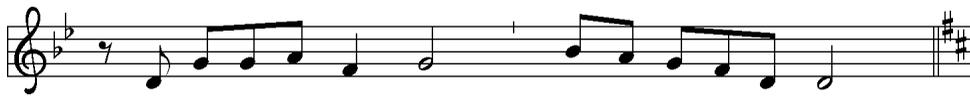


let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil -

Group Two or All



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



in you I take ref - uge. Strip me not of my life.

All



Glo-ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



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



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

*Silence is kept for meditation and prayer.*

Let the incense of our repentant prayer  
ascend before you, O God,  
and let your lovingkindness descend upon us,  
that with purified hearts  
we may sing your praises with the church on earth  
and the whole heavenly host,  
and may glorify you forever and ever.

**Amen**

## PSALM

*Silence is kept after each psalm for meditation and prayer. A concluding prayer will be said following the silence.*

**Week of Lent 1:** Psalm 77

**Week of Lent 2:** Psalm 88

**Week of Lent 3:** Psalm 84

**Week of Lent 4:** Psalm 107:1-6

**Week of Lent 5:** Psalm 75

## READINGS

**Week of Lent 1:** Esther 2:19-3:12 - Power, Personnel and Pogroms

**Week of Lent 2:** Esther 4 - Such a Time as This

**Week of Lent 3:** Esther 5:1-6:14 - Plots, Parades and Providence

**Week of Lent 4:** Esther 7:1-8:17 - Counter-plots and Counter-edicts

**Week of Lent 5:** Esther 9:1-9:25; 10:1-3 - Dueling Decrees

*After the reading, the leader and congregation will respond by saying:*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## HOMILY

### HYMN

**Week of Lent 1:** Thy Holy Wings

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**Week of Lent 2:** If You but Trust in God to Guide You

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**Week of Lent 3:** Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

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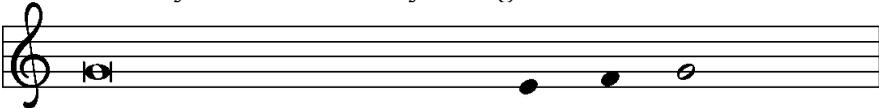
**Week of Lent 4:** Take My Life that I May Be

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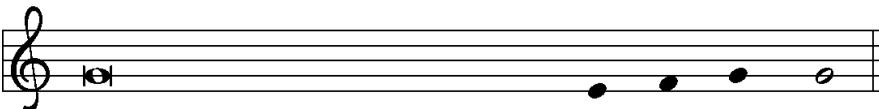
**Week of Lent 5:** Now Thank We All Our God

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*After the song, the prayer continues 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.



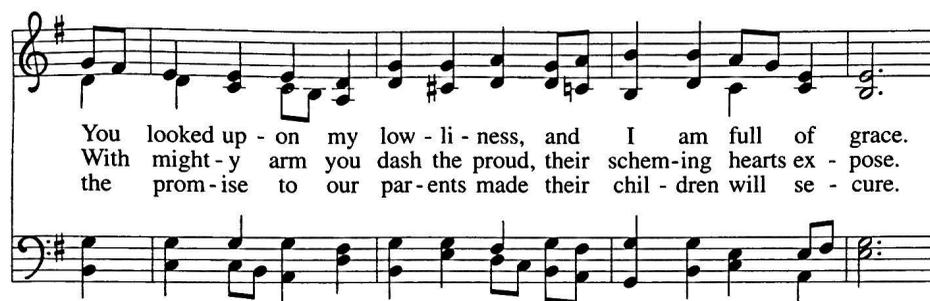
Whoever follows me will never walk in dark - ness.

## GOSPEL CANTICLE

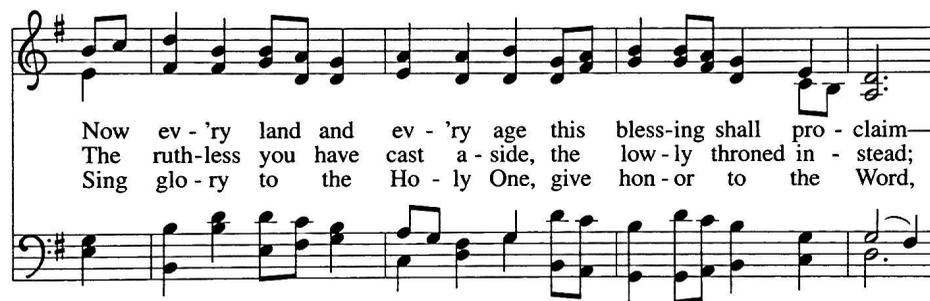
*The assembly sing the gospel canticle for evening, the song of Mary, using the hymn My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness.*



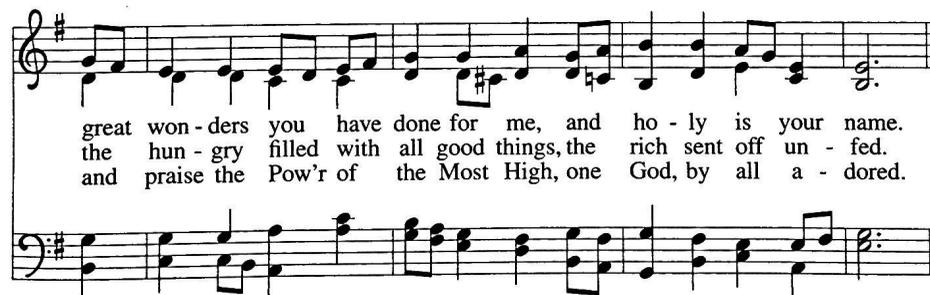
1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.  
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.  
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—  
The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

## PRAYERS

The image shows three staves of musical notation. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). It contains the melody for the first part of the prayer: 'In peace, let us pray to the Lord.' The second staff is also a treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. It contains the melody for the second part of the prayer: 'Lord, have mercy.' The third staff is a bass clef with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. It contains the bass line for the second part of the prayer: 'Lord, have mercy.'

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 | 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 | pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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,

through Christ our Lord. To you, O Lord.

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains a melody of quarter notes: G4, F4, E4, D4. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains a bass line of quarter notes: G3, F3, E3, D3. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

*Silence for prayer follows. The litany with the following prayer chanted by the pastor..*

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.

A - men.

The musical notation is a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains a melody of two quarter notes: G4, F4.

**A - men.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

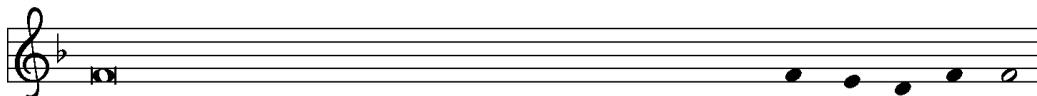
## BENEDICAMUS



Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## BENEDICTION



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



A - men.

May the spirit of our Lord be with us this night,  
**And with our absent brothers and sisters in Christ.**

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# Thy Holy Wings

1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,  
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast  
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.

and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.  
where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.  
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.

Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,  
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,  
Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,

and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.  
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.  
and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite  
Music: BRED DINA VIDÅ VINGAR, Swedish folk tune; arr. hymnal version  
Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent. www.selahpub.com.  
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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## If You But Trust in God to Guide You

1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle  
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less  
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and  
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your

hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -  
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's  
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -  
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -

side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in  
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who  
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has  
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our

God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.  
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.  
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.  
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621-1681; tr. composite  
 Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark  
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# Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

The musical score is written for a three-part setting (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are arranged in three parts, with the first part having three verses. The music features a steady harmonic accompaniment with some melodic movement in the vocal lines.

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are  
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son  
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we  
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.  
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.  
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

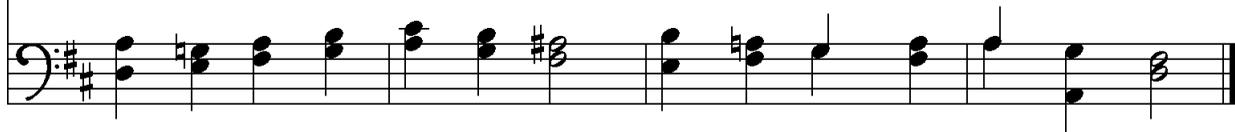
# Take My Life, That I May Be



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;  
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;  
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;  
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



- take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.



- 5 Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

## Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in G major (one flat). The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are numbered 1, 2, and 3, corresponding to the three parts of the hymn.

who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,

The second system of music continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics describe the wondrous things God has done and the joy and peace brought to the world.

who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way  
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;

The third system of music continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics describe God's guidance and blessing from birth to the present.

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.  
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

The fourth system of music concludes the hymn with the final melody and bass line. The lyrics express gratitude for God's love and protection in both the present and the next world.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878  
Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662