

## ***4th Wednesday in Lent***

***March 17, 2021***

Each week, we will explore one of the gifts of discipleship. In the Affirmation of Baptism service (a.k.a. Confirmation), we speak publicly before God saying that we intend to continue to live out our baptismal callings claiming the faith as our own. The question that we respond to asks us to affirm these five gifts of discipleship as our intent of living out our faith.

QUESTION: Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

- **To live among God's faithful people.** (Week 1)
- **To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,** (Week 2)
- **To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,** (Week 3)
- **To serve all people, following the example of Jesus,** (Week 4)
- **And strive for justice and peace in all the earth?** (Week 5)

RESPONSE: *I do, and I ask God to help and guide me. (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 236)*



*\*This picture comes from the ELCA's 2016 Lenten Resource.*

### **Introduction to This Week's Gift of Discipleship**

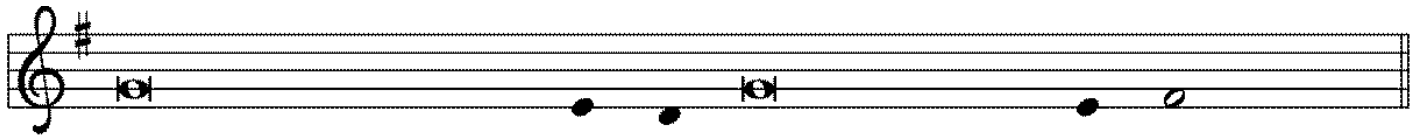
#### **Discussion Questions to Ponder:**

What does it mean for you to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed?

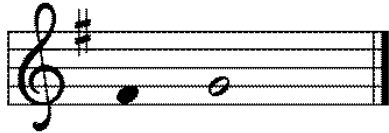
How have you shared in this during this pandemic time (perhaps through sharing the Good News via your online or social media presence)?

How do you feel called to proclaim the good news now, and in what ways may God be calling you to do this going forward?

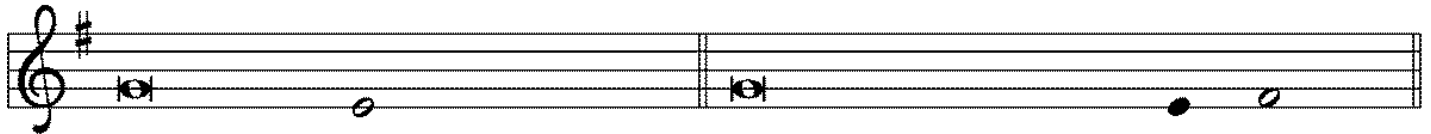
## Night Prayer (Compline)



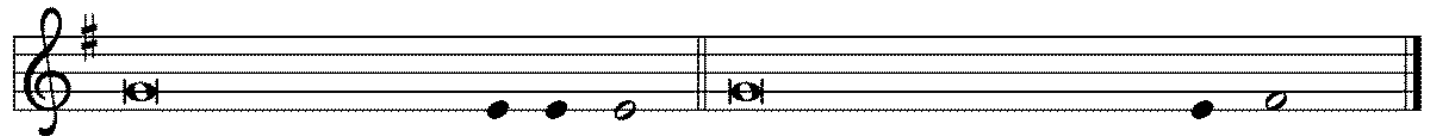
Almighty God grant us a qui - et night and peace at the last.



A - men.

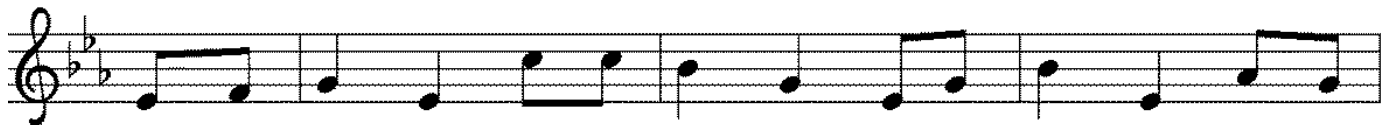


By day, O God, you grant your stead - fast love,



and at night your song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.

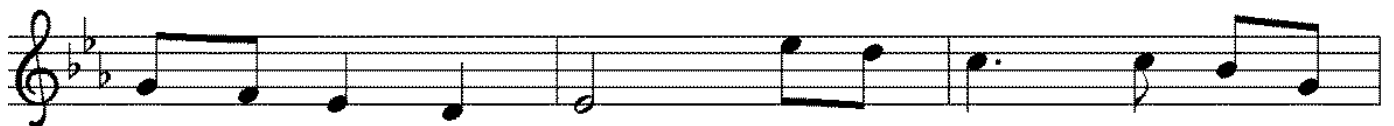
## \*NIGHT HYMN: ELW #561, "Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory"



1 Joy - ous light of heav'n-ly glo - ry, lov-ing glow of God's own  
 2 In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing sun of  
 3 You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev-'ry danc - ing star of



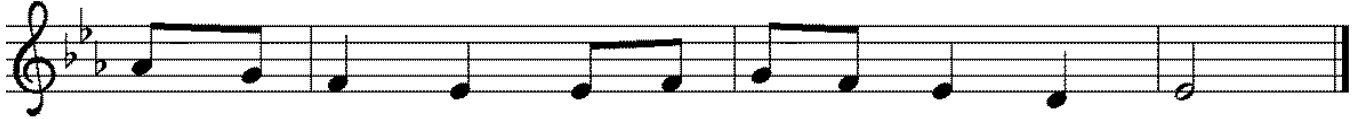
face, you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on  
 dawn, in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can  
 night, make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us



ev - 'ry land and race. Now as eve - ning falls a -  
 hear your qui - et song. Love that fills the night with  
 each re - flect your light. Might - y God of all cre -



round us, we shall raise our songs to you. God of day - break,  
won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul, love that bursts all  
a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way, lov - ing Spir - it



God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.  
chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.  
of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

*Let us pause for a moment of self-examination.*

Holy and gracious God,

**I confess that I have sinned  
against you this day.**

**Some of my sin I know—**

**the thoughts and words and deeds**

**of which I am ashamed—**

**but some is known only to you.**

**In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness.**

**Deliver and restore me,**

**that I may rest in peace.**

By the mercy of God

We are united with Jesus Christ,

In whom we are forgiven.

We rest now in the peace of Christ

And rise in the morning to serve.

**Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY: Let us pray,

**Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of service. We are recipients of your love made known in Christ. Fill our hearts with compassion, so we might serve out of a spirit of love rather than under the mantle of obligation. In the name of Christ, we pray.**

**Amen.**

#### WEEK 4 READINGS

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup>Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup>and do not make room for the devil. <sup>28</sup>Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. <sup>29</sup>Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, <sup>32</sup>and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, <sup>2</sup>and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

John 15:12-17

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

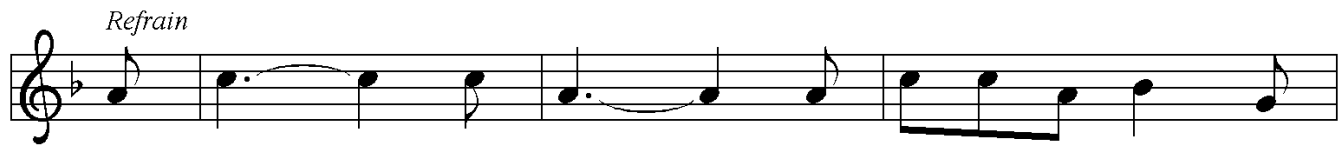
GUEST PREACHER

Divine Cubwa; Current Member of the ELCA Church Council and student at the University of Nebraska- Lincoln

HYMN OF THE EVENING

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

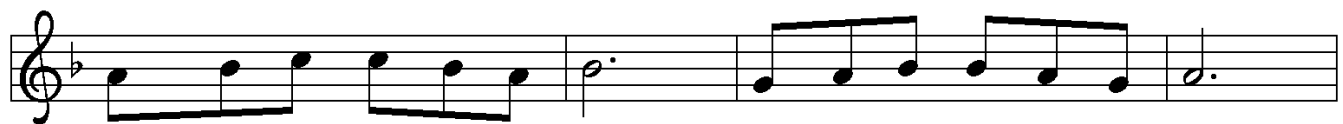
ELW 708



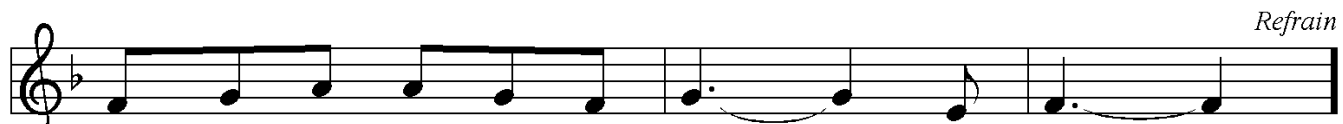
Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



- 1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
- 2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
- 3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
- 4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:



mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.  
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.  
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.  
this is the way we will live with you.

\*NIGHT PRAYERS

Lord 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.**

Be our light in the darkness, O God, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, comfort the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.

**Amen.**

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the day, especially for the good we were permitted to give and to receive; the day is now past and we commit it to you. We entrust to you the night; we rest securely, for you are our help, and you neither slumber nor sleep; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

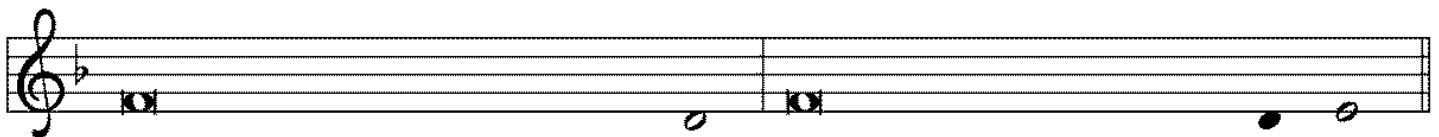
**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

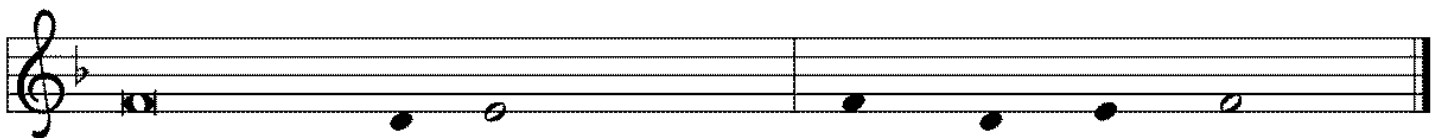
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**



Now in peace I will lie down and sleep; **you alone, O God, make me se - cure.**



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

## \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rest in God. Rise to serve.

**Thanks be to God.**

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Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent., para. Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen

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Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

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## LENTEN OFFERINGS

-Lenten Offerings can be left in the offering plate in the back of our worship space (in the narthex), or made online (GivePlus+), or mailed into the office (10405 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134). This year's Lenten offerings will be split in half to support both the Food Bank of the Heartland and the ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response to help provide food to area pantries and support areas where natural disasters have left their mark.