

5th Wednesday in Lent

March 24, 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

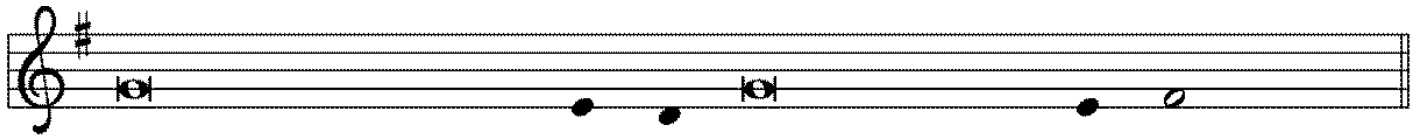
Discussion Questions to Ponder:

What does it mean to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

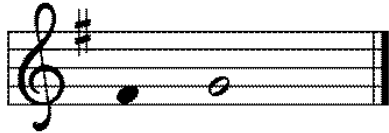
What examples of this have you seen or witnessed in your community and world this past year?

In what ways might you be called today and in the days ahead to "strive for justice and peace in all the earth" yourself?

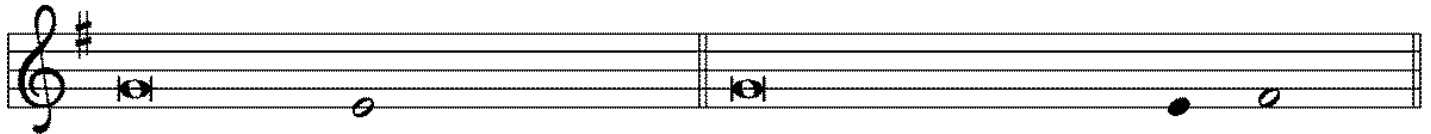
Night Prayer (Compline)



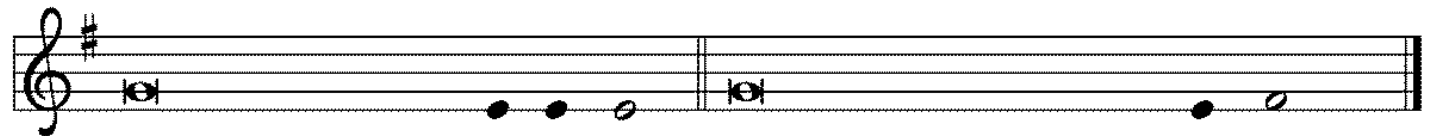
Almighty God grant us a qui - et night and peace at the last.



A - men.

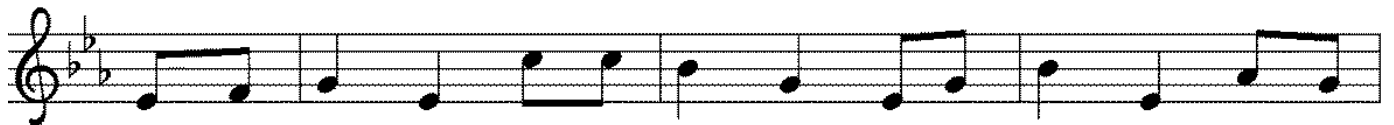


By day, O God, **you grant your stead - fast love,**



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

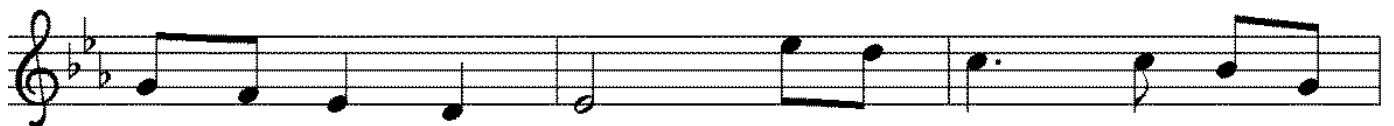
*NIGHT HYMN: ELW #561, "Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory"



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



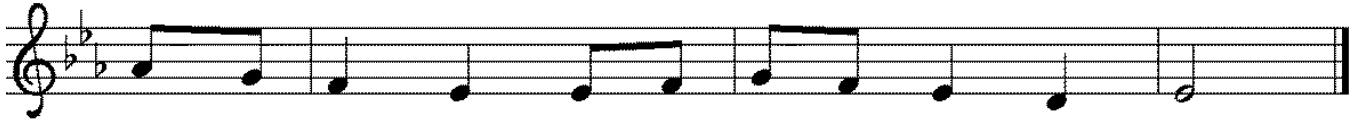
face, you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on
 dawn, in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can
 night, make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us



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 promise of a world of justice and peace. Your love for your beloved humanity is breathtaking. To send your son Jesus Christ to live among us and die for us is humbling. Allow us to partner with you to bring justice and peace in all the earth. Show us the way. In the name of Christ, we pray.

Amen.

WEEK 4 READINGS

Micah 6:6-8

"With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Luke 24:36-49

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate

in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you — that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

GUEST PREACHER

Deacon Karen Melang; Former Nebraska Synod Council Secretary and Former Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity (in Fremont)

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

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

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

HYMN OF THE EVENING

“Christ, Be Our Light”

ELW 715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

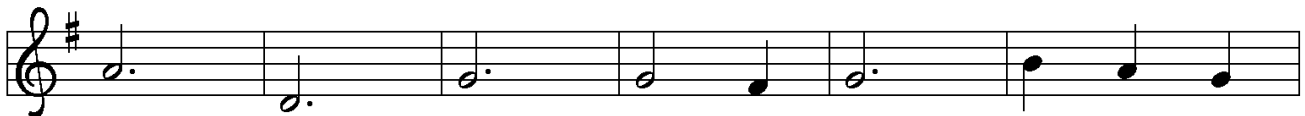


your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
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*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.

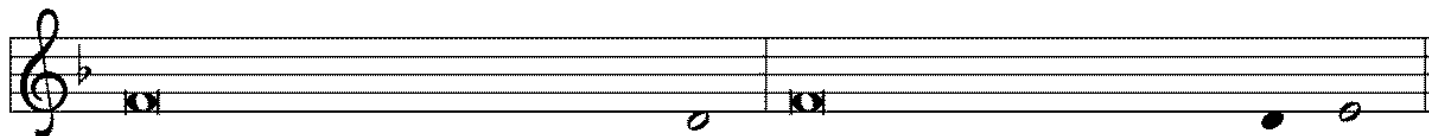
*LORD'S PRAYER

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

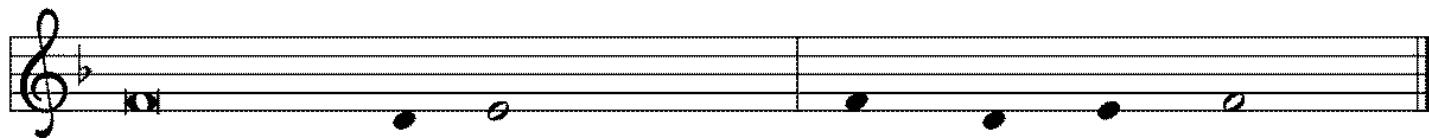
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,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