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# EVENING PRAYER

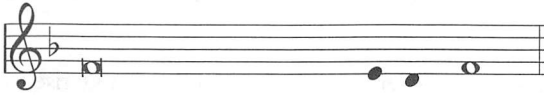
## *Vespers*

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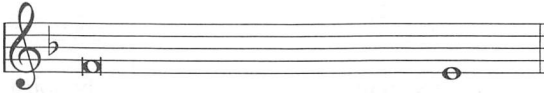
*A simplified form of Evening Prayer, suitable for family or small group devotion, is indicated by the small circle.*

*1. The SERVICE OF LIGHT may be used to begin Evening Prayer. The service may be begun with a procession in which a large, lighted candle is carried to its stand in front of the congregation.*

### *Stand*



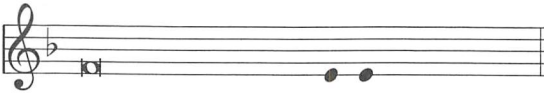
- **L** Je-sus Christ is the Light of the world,



- **C** the light no darkness can over-come.



- **L** Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve-ning,



- **C** and the day is almost o-ver.



- **L** Let your light scat-ter the dark-ness,



- **C** and illumine your Church.

2. As the hymn is sung, the candles on and near the altar are lighted. When the large candle is used, the candles are lighted from its flame.



Joy-ous light of glo - ry:



of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



bles - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the



set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.



We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:



You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -



ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:



The u - ni - verse pro - claims your glo - ry.

3. The thanksgiving concludes the Service of Light.



**L** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.



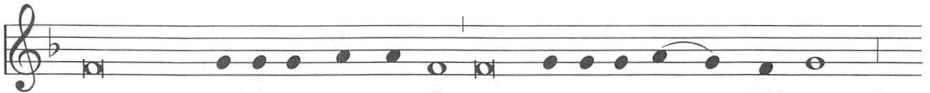
**L** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.



**L** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led your people



Israel by a pil-lar of cloud by day and a pil-lar of fire by night:



Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ; may his 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 we, your crea-tures, glo-ri-fy you, Fa-ther,



Son, and Ho-ly Spir-it.



**C** A - men

*Kneel/Sit*

◦ 4. The PSALMODY begins with this song for forgiveness and protection.



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



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



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



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



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



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



**II** 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 - do - ers.

**I** But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God; in you I take refuge.

Strip me not of my life. **II** Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the

Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it; **I** as it was in the be - gin -

ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men. **C** 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 for meditation.*

- **L** Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before you, O Lord, and let your lovingkindness descend upon us, that with purified minds we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host, and may glorify you forever and ever. (254)

**C** Amen

*Sit*

*5. A second psalm is sung or said. Additional psalms and a New Testament canticle may be sung or said also. Silence for meditation follows each psalm or canticle.*

*6. The psalm prayer appropriate to each psalm follows the silence.*

**C** Amen

*Stand*

*7. THE HYMN is sung.*

*Sit*

- *8. One or two LESSONS are read. Silence for meditation follows each reading.*

9. A response to the reading(s) may follow the silence. After this the leader continues:

☐ In many and various ways God spoke to his people of old by the prophets.

☑ But now in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.

*Stand*

◦ 10. The GOSPEL CANTICLE is sung.

☑ My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir - it re-  
joic-es in God my Sav-ior, for he has looked with fa - vor  
on his low - ly ser - vant. From this day all gen - er -  
a - tions will call me bless - ed. The Al - might - y has  
done great things for me, and ho - ly is his name. He has  
mer-cy on those who fear him in ev - 'ry gen - er - a - tion.  
He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat-tered the  
proud in their con - ceit. He has cast down the might - y from their thrones,  
and has lift - ed up the low - ly. He has filled the

hun-gry with good things, and the rich he has sent a - way emp - ty.

He has come to the help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el,

for he has re - mem - bered his prom - ise of mer - cy, the prom - ise he

made to our fa - thers, to A - bra - ham and his chil - dren for - ev - er.

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

**Kneel/Stand**

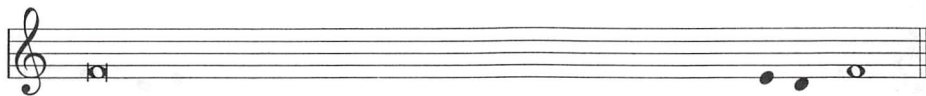
*11. The LITANY is sung or said. The complete Litany may be sung to the alternate musical form.*

**L** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**L** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

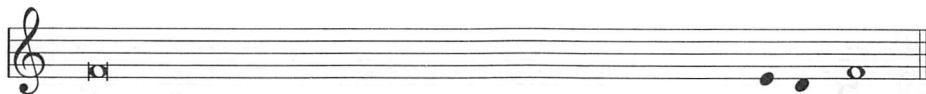
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**L** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



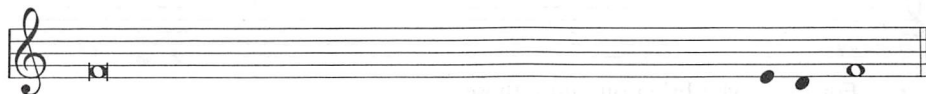
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**L** 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.



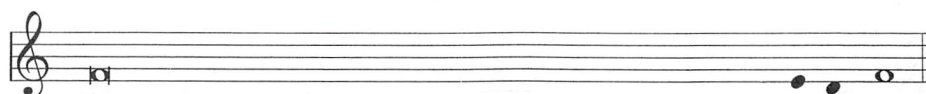
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**L** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray . . . . . to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

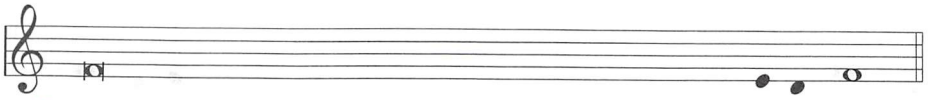


**L** For \_\_\_\_\_<sup>names</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, for our *pastor/pastors* in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

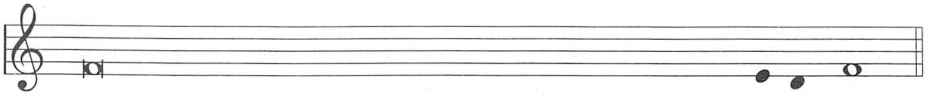




**L** For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray . . . to the Lord.



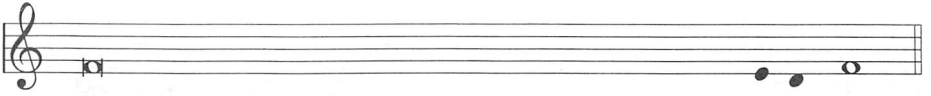
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**L** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray . . . to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**L** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray . . . to the Lord.



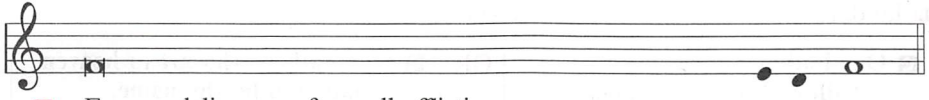
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**L** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray . . . to the Lord.



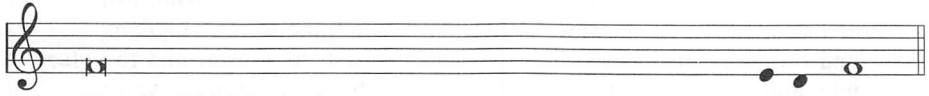
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**L** For our deliverance from all affliction,  
wrath, danger, and need, let us pray . . . . . to the Lord.



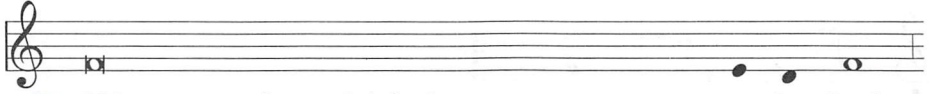
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**L** For the faithful who have gone  
before us and are at rest, let us give thanks . . . . . to the Lord.

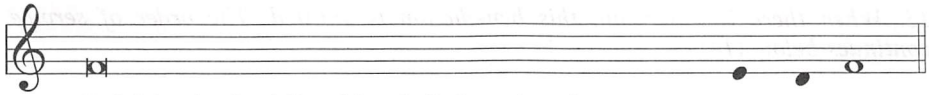


**C** Al - le - lu - ia.



**L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, . . . . . gra-cious Lord.

*Silence for meditation*



**L** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us  
commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.



**C** To you, O Lord.

- **L** 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 the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever. (255)

- **C** Amen

◦ **L** Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

◦ **C** 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

OR **C** 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

**Stand**



**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

12. The **BENEDICTION** concludes the service when there is no sermon. A hymn may follow the benediction.

13. When there is a sermon, this benediction is omitted. The order of service continues below (14).



◦ **L** The almighty and merciful Lord,  
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless . . . . and pre-serve us.



◦ **C** A - men

**Sit**

14. An **OFFERING** may be received during which a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.

15. A HYMN is sung.

16. The SERMON. Following the sermon one of these prayers is said.

**Stand**

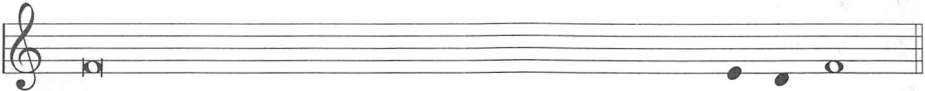
**P** Almighty God, grant to your Church your Holy Spirit and the wisdom which comes down from heaven, that your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve you and in the confession of your name may abide to the end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (250)

**OR** **P** 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. (251)

**OR** **P** Lord, we thank you that you have taught us what you would have us believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to keep your Word in pure hearts, that thereby we may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and in death. (252)

**C** Amen

17. The minister blesses the congregation.



**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless . . . and pre-serve you.



**C** A - men