

# Midweek Vespers

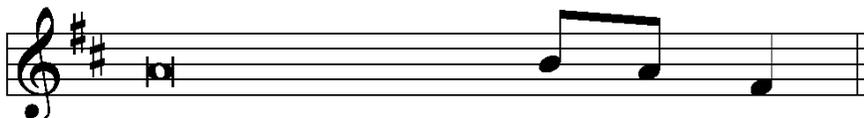
## Lent 4 – 2026 March 18

Stand

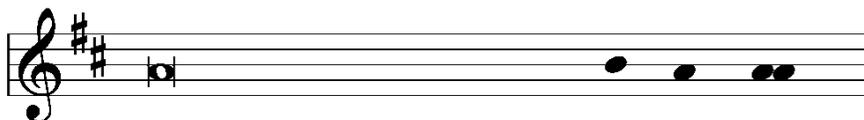
LSB 229



**L** O Lord, o - pen my lips,



**C** and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



**L** Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.



**C** Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



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



*Lent:* Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our sal - va - tion.



<sup>11</sup>My days are like an evening | shadow;\*  
I wither a- | way like grass.

<sup>12</sup>But you, O LORD, are enthroned for- | ever;\*  
you are remembered throughout all gener- | ations.

<sup>13</sup>You will arise and have pity on | Zion;\*  
it is the time to favor her; the appointed | time has come.

<sup>14</sup>For your servants hold her | stones dear\*  
and have pity | on her dust.

<sup>15</sup>Nations will fear the name | of the LORD,\*  
and all the kings of the earth will fear your | glory.

<sup>16</sup>For the LORD builds up | Zion;\*  
he appears in his | glory;

<sup>17</sup>he regards the prayer of the | destitute\*  
and does not de- | spise their prayer.

<sup>18</sup>Let this be recorded for a genera- | tion to come,\*  
so that a people yet to be created may | praise the LORD:

<sup>19</sup>that he looked down from his | holy height;\*  
from heaven the LORD looked | at the earth,

<sup>20</sup>to hear the groans of the | prisoners,\*  
to set free those who were | doomed to die,

<sup>21</sup>that they may declare in Zion the name | of the LORD,\*  
and in Jerusa- | lem his praise,

<sup>22</sup>when peoples gather to- | gether,\*  
and kingdoms, to wor- | ship the Lord.

<sup>23</sup>He has broken my strength in | midcourse;\*  
he has shortened | my days.

<sup>24</sup>“O my God,” I say, “take me not away in the  
midst | of my days—\*  
you whose years endure throughout all gener- | ations!”

<sup>25</sup>Of old you laid the foundation | of the earth,\*  
and the heavens are the work | of your hands.

<sup>26</sup>They will perish, but you | will remain;\*  
they will all wear out like a | garment.

You will change them like a robe, and they will | pass away,\*  
<sup>27</sup>but you are the same, and your years | have no end.

<sup>28</sup>The children of your servants shall | dwell secure;\*  
their offspring shall be established be- | fore you.

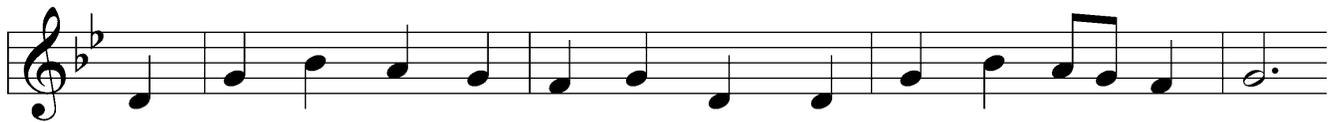
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
And to the Holy | Spirit;  
As it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
Is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

<sup>13</sup>You will arise and have pity on | Zion;\*  
it is the time to favor her; the appointed | time has come.

**Office Hymn: "In Silent Pain the Eternal Son" *LW 432***



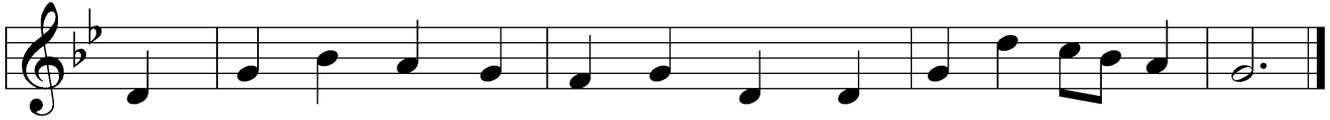
1 In si - lent pain the e - ter - nal Son Hangs der - e - lict and still;  
2 He died that we might die to sin And live for righ - teous - ness;  
3 For strife He came to bring a sword, The truth to end all lies;



In dark - ened day His work is done, Ful - filled, His Fa - ther's will.  
The earth is stained to make us clean And bring us in - to peace.  
To rule in us, our pa - tient Lord, Un - til all e - vil dies:



Up - lift - ed for the world to see He hangs in strang - est vic - to - ry,  
For peace He came and met its cost; He gave Him - self to save the lost;  
For in His hand He holds the stars, His voice shall speak to end our wars,



For in His bod - y on the tree He car-ries all our ill.  
He loved us to the ut - ter - most And paid for our re - lease.  
And those who love Him see His scars And look in - to His eyes.

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110005153

*Sit*

## Readings

### **Matthew 27:3-31**

**L** A reading from Matthew, the twenty-seventh chapter.

<sup>3</sup>Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, <sup>4</sup>saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." <sup>5</sup>And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. <sup>6</sup>But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money." <sup>7</sup>So they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field as a burial place for strangers. <sup>8</sup>Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. <sup>9</sup>Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, <sup>10</sup>and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me."

<sup>11</sup>Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." <sup>12</sup>But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. <sup>13</sup>Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" <sup>14</sup>But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

<sup>15</sup>Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup>And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. <sup>17</sup>So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" <sup>18</sup>For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. <sup>19</sup>Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream." <sup>20</sup>Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. <sup>21</sup>The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." <sup>22</sup>Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" <sup>23</sup>And he said, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

<sup>24</sup>So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." <sup>25</sup>And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" <sup>26</sup>Then he released for





Stand

## Canticle

### Magnificat

LSB 231



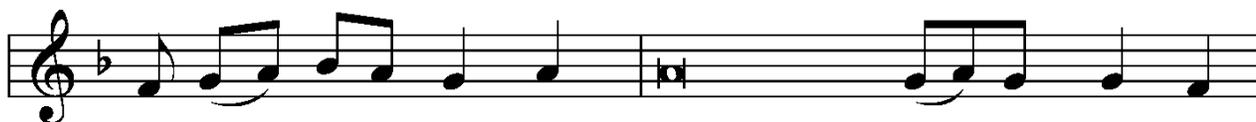
**I** Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



**C** and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



**C** My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



**I** for He has re - gard - ed the lowliness of His hand - maid - en.



**II** For be - hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



**I** For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



**II** and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



**I** He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the



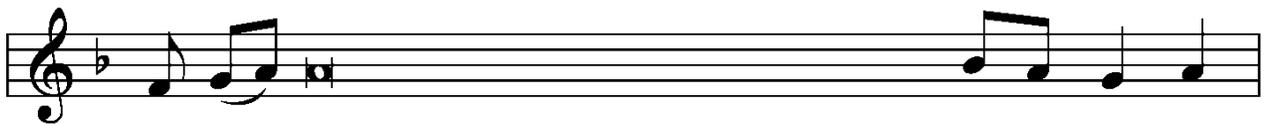
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



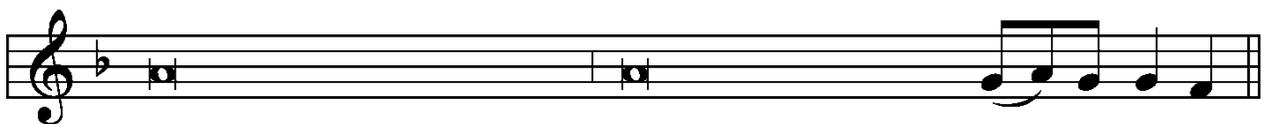
**I** He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



**II** He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



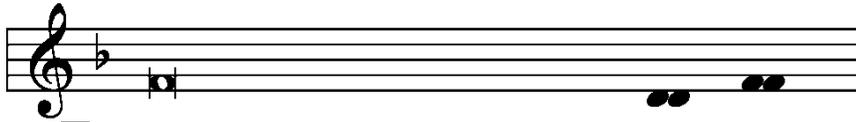
as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ev - er.



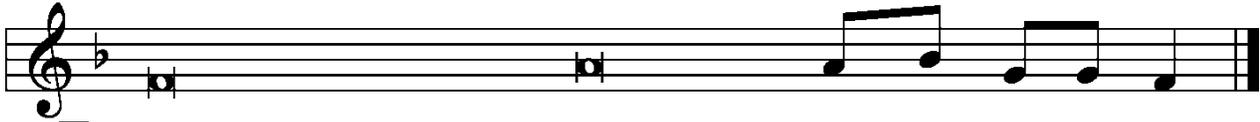
**III** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



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



**L** Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



**C** and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

*Sit*

## Offering

(Offerings placed in the Box in the Narthex before the Service are brought forward here.)

*Kneel/Stand*

Prayer

## Litany (Musical Setting)

(Where petitions are grouped, sing the indicated response after each petition.)



**L** O Lord,



**C** have mer - cy.



**L** O Christ,



**C** have mer - cy.



**L** O Lord,



**C** have mer - cy.



**L** O Christ,



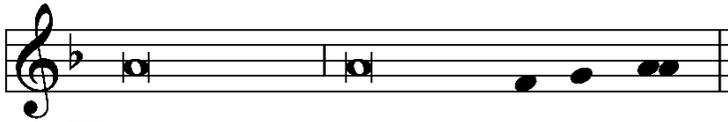
**C** hear us.



**L** God the Fa - ther in heaven,



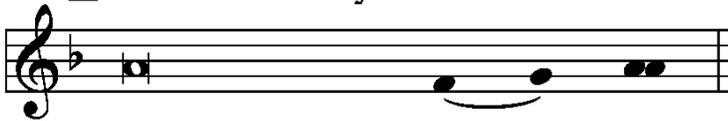
**C** have mer - cy.



**L** God the Son, Redeemer of the world,



**C** have mer - cy.



**L** God the Holy Spir - it,



**C** have mer - cy.



**L** Be gra - cious to us.



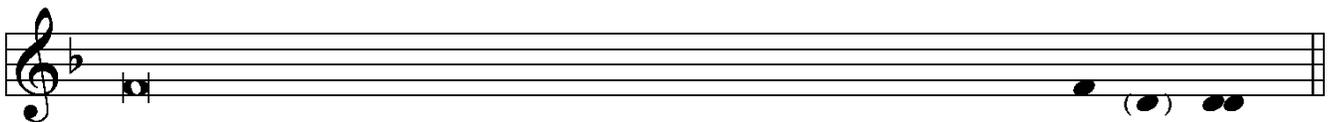
**C** Spare us, good Lord.



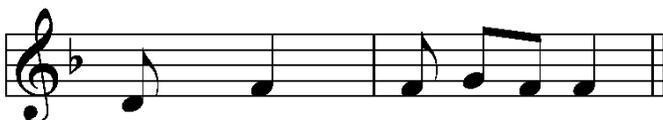
**L** Be gra - cious to us.



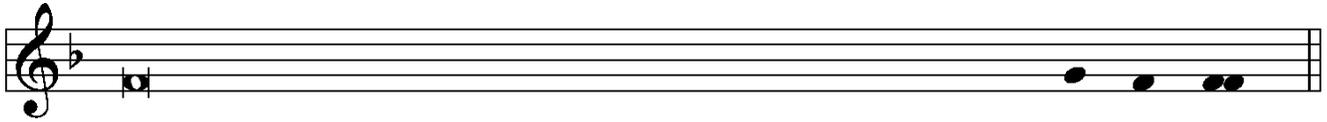
**C** Help us, good Lord.



**L** From all sin, from all error, from all . . . . . e - vil;  
From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and e - vil death;  
From pestilence and famine;  
from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from re - bel - lion;  
From lightning and tempest;  
from all calamity by fire and water; and from ever - last - ing death:



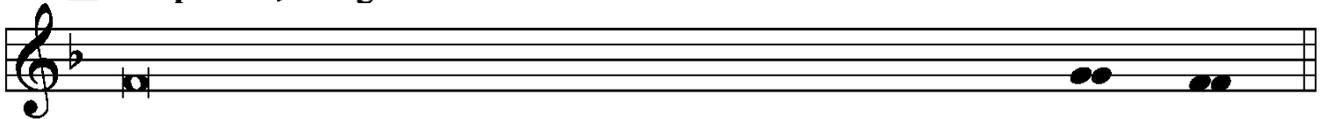
**C** Good Lord, de - liv - er us.



**L** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy na - tiv - i - ty;  
By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation;  
by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your  
cross and passion; by Your precious death and . . . . . bur - i - al;  
By Your glorious resurrection and ascension;  
and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the . . . . . Com - fort - er:



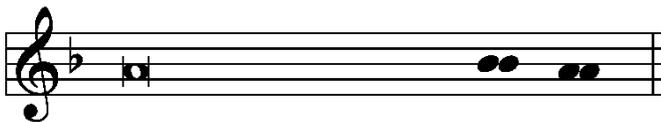
**C** Help us, good Lord.



**L** In all time of our tribulation; in all time  
of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judg - ment:



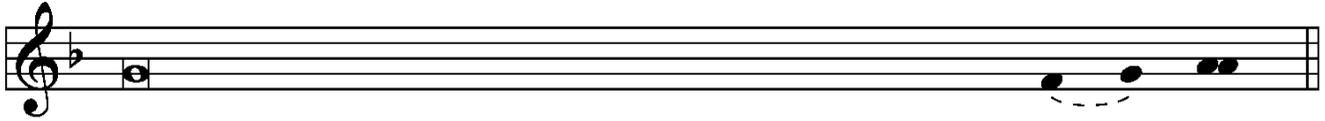
**C** Help us, good Lord.



**L** We poor sinners im - plore You



**C** to hear us, O Lord.



**L** To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church;  
to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your  
Church in the true knowledge and understanding  
of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy . . . . . liv - ing;  
  
To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense;  
to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and . . . . . are de - ceived;  
  
To beat down Satan under our feet;  
to send faithful laborers into Your harvest;  
and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and . . . . . Spir - it:



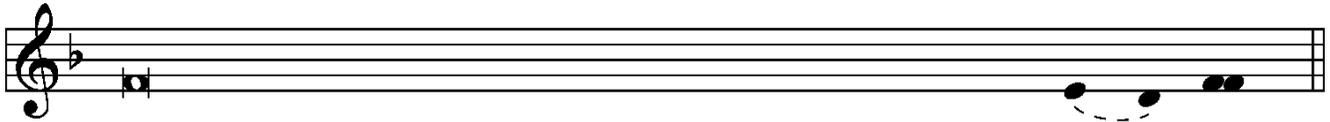
**C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.



**L** To raise those who fall and to strengthen those  
who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the dis - tressed:



**C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.



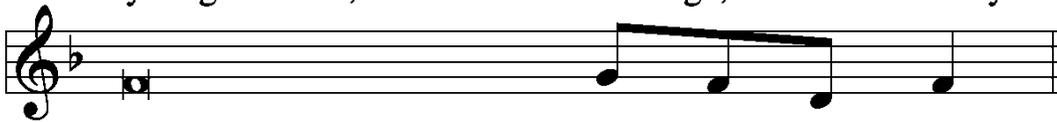
**L** To give to all peoples concord and peace;  
to preserve our land from discord and strife;  
to give our country Your protection in every . . . . . time of need;

To direct and defend our president/queen/king and all in  
authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our peo - ple;

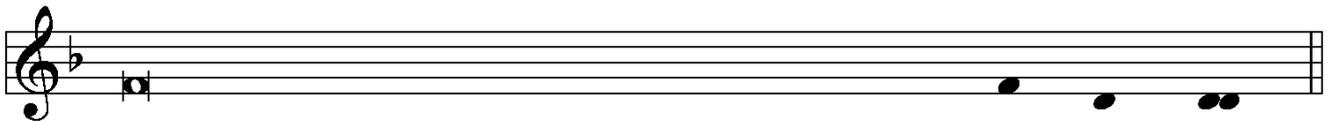
To watch over and help all who are in danger,  
necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who trav - el;

To grant all women with child, and all mothers  
with infant children, increasing happiness in  
their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and pro-vide for them;

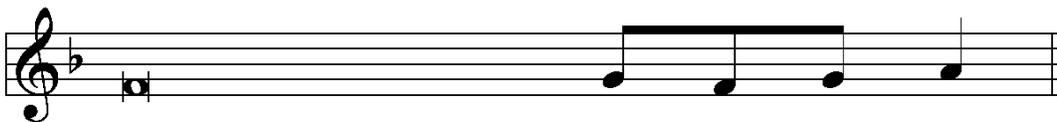
To strengthen and keep all sick persons and  
young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:



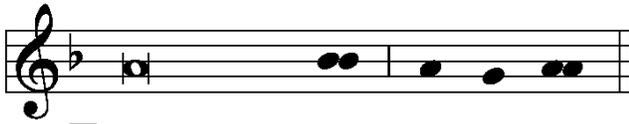
**C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.



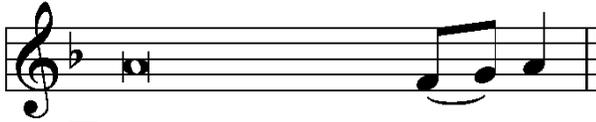
**L** To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers  
and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our  
use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:



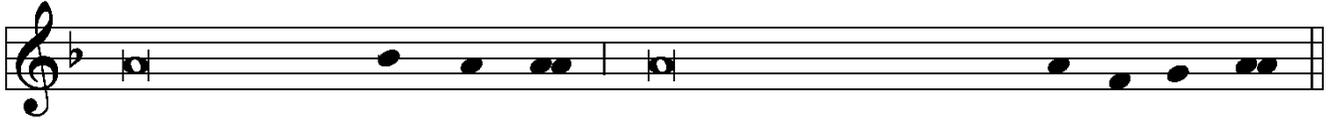
**C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.



**L** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,



**C** we implore You to hear us.



**L** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,



**C** have mer - cy.



**L** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,



**C** have mer - cy.



**L** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,



**C** grant us Your peace.



**L** O Christ,



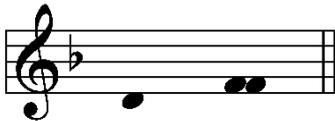
**C** hear us.



**L** O Lord,



**C** have mer - cy.



**L** O Christ,



**C** have mer - cy.



**L** O Lord,



**C** have mer - cy. A - men.



Our Fa - ther who art in heav - en, hal-low - ed be Thy name,



Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as



it is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly



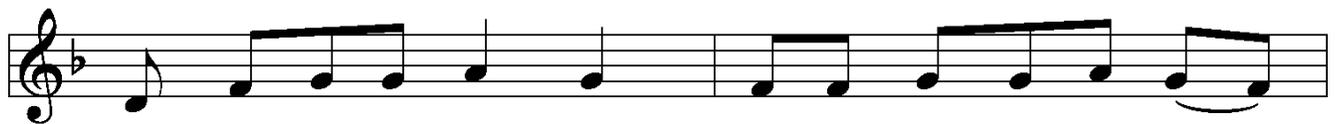
bread; and for-give us our tres-pass - es as we for-give



those who tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in -



to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.



For Thine is the king - dom and the pow'r and the glo -



ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.



## Versicle and Response

**L** Call on Me in the Day of | trouble.\*

**C** I will deliver you, and you will glor- | ify Me,

## Litany Collect

**P** Spare us, O Lord, and mercifully forgive us our sins. Though by our continual transgressions we have merited Your chastisements, be gracious to us. Grant that all these punishments which we have deserved may not come upon us, but that all things may work to our everlasting good; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Collect for Lent 4

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



**C** A - men.

## Collect for Peace

**P** 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 Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Stand*

## Benedicamus

*LSB 234*



**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

*LSB 234*





and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



**C** A - men.

### Closing Hymn: "O Light Whose Splendor"

LSB 891



1 O Light whose splen - dor thrills and glad - dens  
2 As twi - light hov - ers near at sun - set,  
3 In all life's bril - liant time - less mo - ments,



With ra - diance bright - er than the sun,  
And lamps are lit, and chil - dren nod,  
Let faith - ful voic - es sing Your praise,



Pure gleam of God's un - end - ing glo - ry,  
In eve - ning hymns we lift our voic - es  
O Son of God, our Life - be - stow - er,



O Je - sus, blest A - noint - ed One;  
To Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son: one God.  
Whose glo - ry light - ens end - less days.

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