Always, we begin again.

A brief service of prayer, scripture, and song.

The congregation's responses are in **bold** typeface.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket, but on a lamp-stand where it gives light for everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellow men, so that they may see the deed you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven."

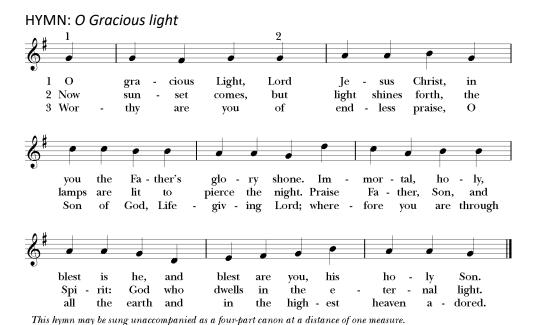
The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O Lord God Almighty, as you have taught us to call the evening, the morning, and the noonday one day; and have made the sun to know its going down: Dispel the darkness of our hearts, that by your brightness we may know you to be the true God and eternal light, living and reigning for ever and ever. **Amen.**

As the hymn is sung, the those seated around each table use a taper to light the additional candles on the table.



LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

PSALM 121

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; * from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, * the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved * and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel * shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The LORD himself watches over you; * the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, * nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; * it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, * from this time forth for evermore.

LESSON: Lamentation 3:22-26

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;

23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

²⁴ "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

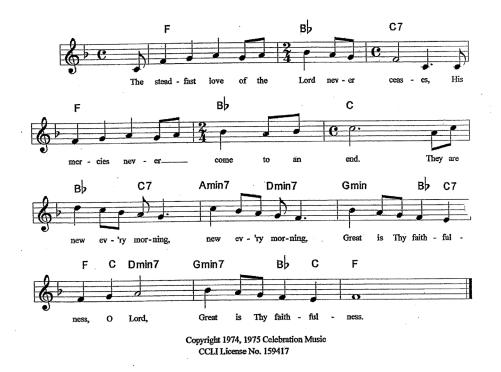
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

²⁵ The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

²⁶ It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

SONG: The steadfast love of the Lord



LESSON: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

- a time to be born, and a time to die;
- a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- a time to kill, and a time to heal;
- a time to break down, and a time to build up;
- a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
- a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
- a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
- a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
- a time to seek, and a time to lose;
- a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
- a time to tear, and a time to sew;
- a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
- a time to love, and a time to hate;
- a time for war, and a time for peace.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

APPROACHING GOD IN PRAYER

SONG: O Lord, hear my prayer



That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful, **We entreat you, O Lord.**

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill, **We entreat you, O Lord.**

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses, **We entreat you, O Lord.**

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world, **We entreat you, O Lord.**

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ, **We entreat you, O Lord.**

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,

We entreat you, O Lord

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, creator of the changes of day and night, giving rest to the weary, renewing the strength of those who are spent, bestowing upon us occasions of song in the evening. As you have protected us in the day that is past, so be with us in the coming night; keep us from every sin, every evil, and every fear; for you are our light and salvation, and the strength of our life. To you be glory for endless ages. **Amen.**

GIVING THANKS FOR GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

