

# 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.*

### HYMN: O Gracious light



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, in  
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth, the  
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O



you the Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,  
lamps are lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and  
Son of God, Life - giv - ing Lord; where - fore you are through



blest is he, and blest are you, his ho - ly Son.  
Spi - rit: God who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.  
all the earth and in the high - est heaven a - dored.

*This hymn may be sung unaccompanied as a four-part canon at a distance of one measure.*

# 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;

<sup>23</sup> they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

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

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

<sup>26</sup> It is good that one should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the LORD.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

SONG: *The steadfast love of the Lord*

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a key signature of one flat (Bb). It begins with a common time signature (C) and changes to 2/4 time after the first measure. The lyrics are: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning, new every morning. Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord, Great is Thy faithfulness." The score includes various chords: F, Bb, C7, F, Bb, C, Bb, C7, Amin7, Dmin7, Gmin, Bb, C7, F, C, Dmin7, Gmin7, Bb, C, F.

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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*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: \*The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: when I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O all my hope comes from God. The Lord is my song, the Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life. The". The score includes repeat signs and a double bar line at the end.

\*Alternate text

Text: Psalm 102; Taizé Community, 1982  
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
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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

1 Great is thy faith - ful-ness, O God my Fa - ther, there is no  
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring-time and har - vest, sun, moon and  
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thy own dear

shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -  
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in  
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright

pas-sions they fail not; as thou has been thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 man - i - fold wit-ness to thy great faith - ful-ness, mer - cy and love.  
 hope for to - mor - row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be - side!

*Refrain*

Great is thy faith - ful-ness! Great is thy faith - ful-ness!

Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need - ed thy