



Service Notes

The Season

Advent means "coming." This is the season of the Church Year when we remember that Christ will come again. He came once as a baby in Bethlehem and will return as King of kings and Lord of lords. The emphasis of the season is on preparation and watchfulness. The expectancy of Advent is fulfilled on Christmas.

The Service

Our service this evening is a version of Evening Prayer. Since the 4th century, God's people have used this service at the time of day when the sun sets and darkness sets in—typically around 6pm this time of year. This service is an opportunity to look back in thankfulness for the gifts God granted throughout the day and look ahead to the evening—when work is completed and God grants rest.



EVENING PRAYER

PROCESSION OF LIGHT

Leader:

A musical staff in G clef, 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat. It consists of a single note on the first line, followed by a short rest, then three notes on the first, second, and third lines respectively. The notes are black dots on a five-line staff.

Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

All:

A musical staff in G clef, 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat. It consists of a single note on the first line, followed by a short rest, then three notes on the first, second, and third lines respectively. The notes are black dots on a five-line staff.

the light no darkness can o - ver - come;

Leader:

A musical staff in G clef, 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat. It consists of a single note on the first line, followed by a short rest, then three notes on the first, second, and third lines respectively. The notes are black dots on a five-line staff.

Stay with us now, for it is evening,

All:

A musical staff in G clef, 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat. It consists of a single note on the first line, followed by a short rest, then three notes on the first, second, and third lines respectively. The notes are black dots on a five-line staff.

and the day is al - most over.

Leader:

A musical staff in G clef, 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat. It consists of a single note on the first line, followed by a short rest, then three notes on the first, second, and third lines respectively. The notes are black dots on a five-line staff.

Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

All:

A musical staff in G clef, 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat. It consists of a single note on the first line, followed by a short rest, then three notes on the first, second, and third lines respectively. The notes are black dots on a five-line staff. The measure ends with a repeat sign and a 3/4 time signature, followed by a measure with a single note on the first line.

and shine within your peo - ple here. —

2 *poco rit.*

EVENING HYMN

Phos Hilaron

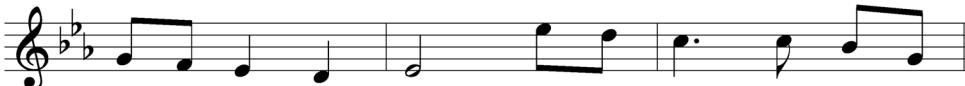
This hymn, *Phos Hilaron* (*Joyous Light*), is one of the oldest existing hymns in Christendom. It was written sometime during the 3rd century. Already in the mid-300's AD, Basil of Caesarea spoke of singing this hymn as cherished tradition. Tonight, we join our voices with the ancient church, asking Christ—our Joyous Light—to light our hearts anew.



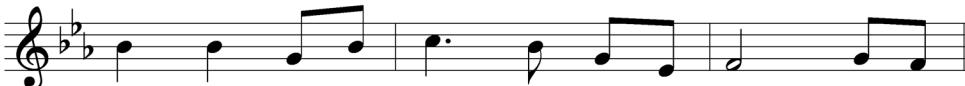
1 Joy - ous light of heav'n - ly glo - ry, lov-ing glow of
2 In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing
3 You who made the heav - en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry danc - ing



God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on
sun of dawn, in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can
star of 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
won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul, love that
a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way, lov - ing



day - break, God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.
bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.
Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

- May God be with you all.
- And also with you.**
- Let us give our thanks to God.
- It is right to give God thanks and praise.**
- Blessed are you, Creator of the universe. From old you have led your people by night and by day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.
- Amen.**

PSALM 141

Refrain:

All:

Let my prayer rise up like incense be -
 fore you, the lift - ing up of my
 hands as an of - fer - ing to you. —

- Refrain.**
- Refrain.**
- O God, I call to you, come to me now. O hear my voice when I cry to you.
- Refrain.**
- Keep watch within me, God; deep in my heart may the light of your love be burning bright.
- Refrain.**
- All praise to the Father-Creator of life; all praise be to Christ and the Spirit of love.
- Refrain.**

PRAYER

- May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.
- Amen.

READING

Isaiah 55:1-5

“Come, all you who are thirsty,
 come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without cost.
²Why spend money on what is not bread,
 and your labor on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
 and you will delight in the richest of fare.
³Give ear and come to me;
 listen, that you may live.
I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
 my faithful love promised to David.
⁴See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,
 a ruler and commander of the peoples.
⁵Surely you will summon nations you know not,
 and nations you do not know will come running to you,
because of the LORD your God,
 the Holy One of Israel,
for he has endowed you with splendor.”

- The Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

LITANY & PRAYERS

A litany is a form of prayer consisting of petitions and responses. Litany comes from an Greek word that simply means "prayer." This form of prayer has its roots going back to God's people worshipping in the temple. Psalm 136 is an example of this. After each petition the leader makes, the worshippers respond—"His love endures forever." Tonight, we bring our prayers to God with this form used by God's people for millennia.

Congregational Response:



God ____ of mer - cy, hold us in love.

c Response x2

- In peace, in peace, we pray to you:
- c Response.**
- For peace and salvation, we pray to you:
- c Response.**
- For us who are gathered to worship and praise you:
- c Response.**
- For all of your servants who live out your gospel:
- c Response.**
- Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger:
- c Response.**
- Help us, comfort us, all of our days.
- c Response.**

L Great and merciful God, source of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your Gospel of mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

L Jesus, remember us in your love, 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.

Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours
 now and forever. Amen.

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L May God, our Creator, bless and keep us.

May Christ, our Light, be ever light for our lives.

May the Spirit, our Sanctifier, be our guide and path for all our days.

C Amen.

HYMN

Before the Ending of the Day
Christian Worship #790



1 Be - fore the end - ing of the day, Cre - a - tor of the
2 From e - vil dreams de - fend our sight, from all the ter - rors
3 O Fa - ther, this we ask be done through Je - sus Christ, your



world, we pray. Your grace and peace to us al - low
of the night, from all de - lud - ing thoughts that creep
on - ly Son, whom with the Spir - it we a - dore



and guard and keep your peo - ple now.
on heed - less minds dis - armed by sleep.
for - ev - er and for - ev - er more. A - men.

L Depart in peace,

C In the name of the Lord. Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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HUNTERSVILLE

Lutheran Church