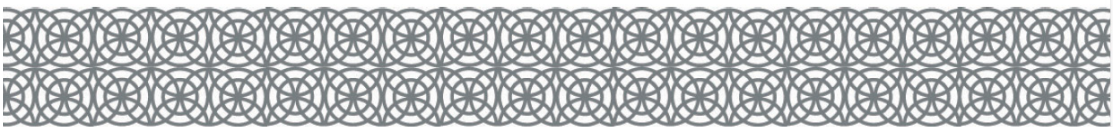




SUNDAY EVENING

Vespers



CONCLUDING THE LORD'S DAY IN WORSHIP

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 22, 2023

Lord's Day Vespers

EVENING WORSHIP AT 6:00 P.M.

EVENING VESPER MEDITATION

Almighty God, we give You thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of vesper light; and we implore You in Your great mercy that, as You enfold us with the radiance of Your light, so You would shine into our hearts the brightness of Your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord 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 forever and ever. Amen.



Prelude

Call to Worship

Psalm 113:1-3

Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the house of the LORD! Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the LORD! May the LORD, Who made Heaven and earth, bless you from Zion!

Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

(see page 6)

Responsive Reading

Psalm 51:1-12

Minister: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

People: **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**

Minister: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
People: Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.

Minister: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
People: Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

Minister: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
People: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that You have broken rejoice.

Minister: Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
People: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Minister: Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
People: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Hymn

God Be Merciful to Me

(see page 7)

Evening Prayer

Congregational Prayer of Confession

Minister: Most holy and merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess before You our sinful nature prone to evil and slothful in good, and all our shortcomings and offenses.
People: You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from Your ways;

Minister: in wasting Your gifts;
People: in forgetting Your love;

Minister: in blindness and hardness of our hearts toward those in suffering and want;
People: in indifference toward justice and mercy;

Minister: in arrogance and all the evil ways of our selfishness and pride.
People: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Your loving-kindness.

Minister: According to the multitude of Your tender mercies blot out our transgressions.
People: Create in us a clean heart, O God.

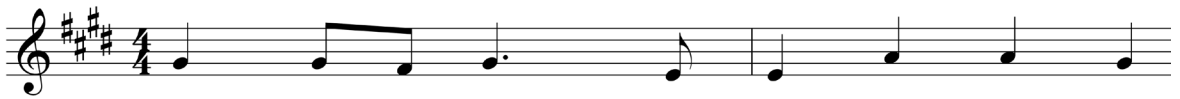
Minister: Renew a right spirit within us.
People: Cast us not away from Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from us.

Minister: Restore unto us the joy of Your salvation; and uphold us with Your Spirit;
People: Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayer Response

We Long to See You

Words and Music: Wendell Kimbrough



Al - migh - ty God we long to see You.



O - pen our hearts and make them pure. Spi - rit, please wash



in Your mer - cy; come teach our souls to love Your truth.

At "We Long to See You," children are dismissed to attend their classes.

Evening Scripture Lesson

2 Kings 25:1-12

And in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came with all his army against Jerusalem and laid siege to it. And they built siegeworks all around it. 2 So the city was besieged till the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. 3 On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine was so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land. 4 Then a breach was made in the city, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between the two walls, by the king's garden, and the Chaldeans were around the city. And they went in the direction of the Arabah. 5 But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king and overtook him in the plains of Jericho, and all his army was scattered from him. 6 Then they captured the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and they passed sentence on him. 7 They slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah and bound him in chains and took him to Babylon. 8 In the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month—that was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon—Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. 9 And he burned the house of the Lord and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned down. 10 And all the army of the Chaldeans, who were with the captain of the guard, broke down the walls around Jerusalem. 11 And the rest of the people who were left in the city and the deserters who had deserted to the king of Babylon, together with the rest of the multitude, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried into exile. 12 But the captain of the guard left some of the poorest of the land to be vinedressers and plowmen.

1. The Writer of Lamentations
2. The Book of Lamentations
3. The Audience for Lamentations
4. The Christ Who Lamented

Prayer

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to and the Fencing of the Table

Participation requires your reverence and attention, discernment of the Lord's Body, a clear understanding of the meaning of the Lord's Supper, meditation on Christ's suffering and death, self-judgment, sorrow for sin, desire for Christ, feeding on Him in faith, trusting in Him, rejoicing in His love, giving thanks for His grace, renewal of your covenant with God and commitment to Christ, and your special love to all Christians.

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us and for our salvation came down from Heaven; and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into Heaven; and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And we believe in the Holy Ghost; the Lord and Giver of life; Who proceeds from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead; and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of Humble Access

Words of Institution

Serving of the Meal

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn

He Will Hold Me Fast

(see page 9)

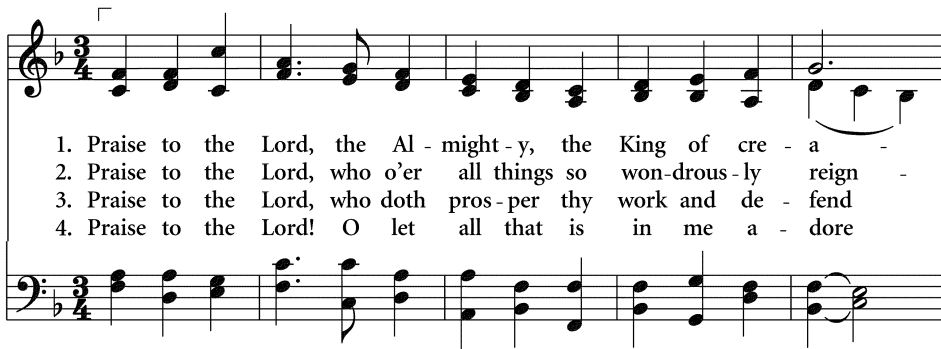
Benediction

Congregational Response

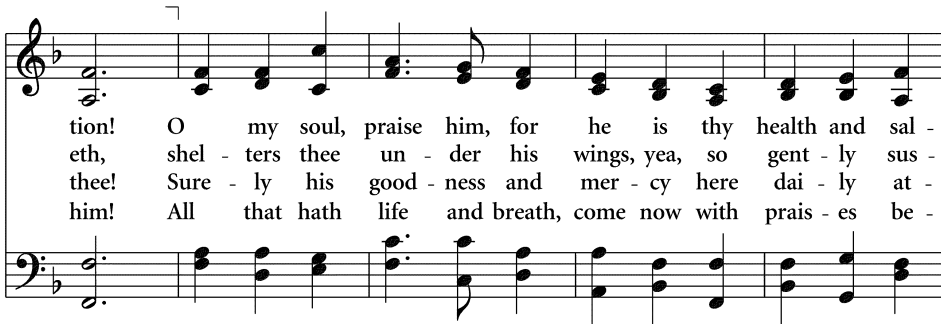
He Will Hold Me Fast

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

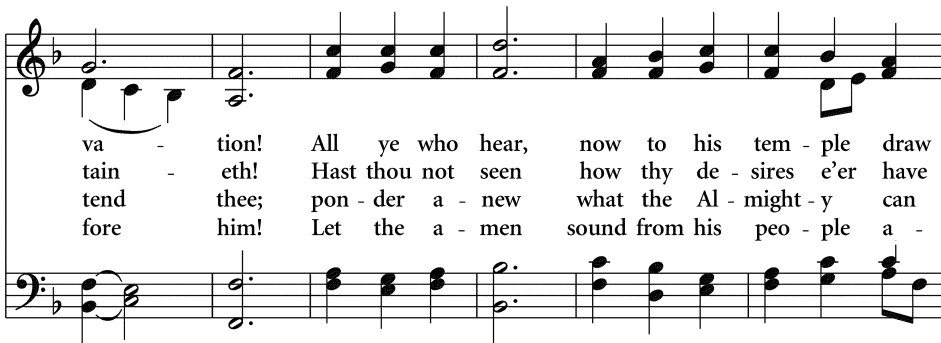
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty




1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly reign -
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend
4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore



tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal -
eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so gent - ly sus -
thee! Sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at -
him! All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be -



va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his tem - ple draw
tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de - sires e'er can
tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y have
fore him! Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a -



near, join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion.
been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
do, if with his love he be - friend thee.
gain; glad - ly for - e'er we a - dore him.

God Be Merciful to Me (Ps. 51)



1. God, be mer - ci - ful to me, _____
2. My trans - gres - sions I con - fess, _____
3. Bro - ken, hum - bled to the dust _____
4. Gra - cious God, my heart re - new,



On thy grace I rest my plea;
Grief and guilt my soul op - press;
By thy wrath and judge - ment just,
Make my spir - it right and true



Plen - teous in com - pas - sion thou, _____
I have sinned a - gainst thy grace _____
Let my con - trite heart re - joice _____
Cast me not a - way from thee,



Blot out my trans - gres - sions now;
And pro - voked thee to thy face;
And in glad - ness hear thy voice;
Let thy Spir - it dwell in me;



Wash me, Make me pure with-in, _____
I con - fess thy judge - ment just, _____
From my sins O hide thy face, _____
Thy sal - va - tion's joy im - part,



Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.
Speech - less, I thy mer - cy trust.
Blot them out in bound - less grace.
Stead - fast make my will - ing heart.

Come to Jesus (Rest in Him)



1. Are you wear - y, heav - y la - den? Come and lay your bur - dens down;
(2. Are you) hope - less, are you guilt - y? Caught in shame for all your sin?
(3. Are you) wait - ing in your sor - rows For this bro - ken world to heal?



Je - sus calls you, Je - sus draws you; rest in Him.
He pur - sues you to for - give you; rest in Him.
He is com - ing, soon re - turn - ing; rest in Him.



He is gen - tle, He is low - ly, He de - lights to bring us peace;
He has paid for ev - 'ry fail - ure, Mer - cy flows in end - less streams;
We will see Him, we will know Him, O what heights of grace re - vealed;



Ten - der Shep - herd, might - y Sa - vior: rest in Him.
Come and fol - low, free - dom calls you: rest in Him.
3a. From his kind - ness ev - 'ry prom - ise then ful - filled;
3b. Trust in Je - sus, He will keep us to the end. *3rd verse, add line 3b before going to chorus*

Chorus



How sure his com - pas - sion for us! Oh how deep is his



love; So come, come to Je - sus and rest in Him.

He Will Hold Me Fast

Words: Verses 1-2, Ada Habershon (1861-1918); Verse 3, Matt Merker

Music: Matt Merker

$\text{♩} = 56$

1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast; When the tempt - er
2. Those He saves are His de - light, Christ will hold me fast; Pre - cious in his
3. For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast; Just - ice has been

would pre - vail, He will hold me fast. I could nev - er keep my hold
ho - ly sight, He will hold me fast. He'll not let my soul be lost; His
sat - is - fied; He will hold me fast. Raised with Him to end - less life,

Through life's fear - ful path; For my love is oft - en cold; He must hold me
Prom - is - es shall last; Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me
He will hold me fast 'Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at

fast. He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
fast.
last!

For my Sa - vior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Making a Joyful Noise

Devotional Thoughts on Congregational Singing

*Let God speak directly to His people through the Scriptures,
and let His people respond with grateful songs of praise.*

–Martin Luther

Commanded to Sing

Scripture contains many exhortations to sing to God. Repeatedly, we are encouraged to be a singing people with more than 400 references to singing in the Bible and at least 50 direct commands to sing. Just as we are told to study the Scriptures, to pray, to give, to take communion, so we are commanded to sing with the saints. It is interesting and mysterious that this particular activity is commanded, both within and outside of worship. God’s commands are good for us; there are so many spiritual benefits we receive from singing and ‘making melody in your heart’ (Ephesians 5:19).

Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of the saints (Psalm 149:1).

The command is not to sing just to ourselves or by ourselves, but as part of “the assembly of the saints” – that is, in the company of other believers and with your church. It is not a metaphorical, or optional, or seasonal suggestion, but a clear directive from our Lord and Savior to sing as a regular part of our worship life, primarily and especially with other believers. Just as we are called to gather together every Sunday for worship, so we are called to sing when in His presence. If we neglect singing, corporately or individually, we neglect communing with the Lord, and with His saints.

Within any assembly, we may sing songs that we may not have chosen because they are not our favorite, to arrangements or with accompaniments that we may not have chosen. On such occasions, we need to be willing to lay down our own tastes for the good of the wider assembly. For as long as we have the health and the ability, we are each called to sing with the people of God, and to love the people of God enough to sing; dying to ourselves and glorifying the Lord in the process.

Liberally taken from *Sing!, How Worship Transforms Your Life, Family and Church*, by Keith and Kristyn Getty, chapter 2, pp 13-15.



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