



First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Order of Service for Evensong

March 27, 2024

Wednesday of Holy Week

A special welcome to those visiting us this evening.

We are grateful for your presence with us and hope you find this time of worship to be meaningful.

When you see an asterisk *, please rise in body or spirit, however you are comfortable.

Please join your voice with the congregation in reading the responses in **bold print**.

We Gather to Worship

WORDS OF WELCOME

(The water is poured.)

We thank you, O God, for the water of baptism. Through it we are reborn by the power of the Holy Spirit. "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." - *Galatians 3:28*

And you are welcome here.

TOLLING

*OPENING SENTENCES

One: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

All: the light no darkness can overcome.

One: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

All: and the day is almost over.

One: Let your light scatter the darkness

All: and illumine your church.

*EVENING HYMN 471

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

HEAR MY PRAYER

First line to be sung three times.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

471

The Lord Is My Song

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.
Or 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.
Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

This chant from the Taizé Community in France is provided with two sets of words, either of which can be used as best suits the occasion. The first text is based on Psalm 102:1-2, and the second is an amalgam of phrases drawn from Psalms 118:14, 25:5, 36:9, and John 4:14.

THANSGIVING FOR LIGHT

(The candles are lit.)

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Eternal God by your word you commanded: "Let there be light!"

By your Spirit you have revealed the light of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

Shine in our hearts this night with the light of your good news

and illumine our dreams with the vision of your holy realm;

through Christ our Lord and in the unity of the Spirit,

we give you thanks and praise now and forever.

All: Amen.

We Proclaim God's Word

EVENING PRAYER

(The incense is lit.)

One: Holy God, let the incense of our prayer ascend before you,
and let your loving-kindness descend upon us,
that with devoted hearts we may sing your praises
with the church on earth and the whole heavenly host,
and glorify you forever and ever. To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

All: O God, in you I trust.

One: Let my prayer rise before you as incense, O Lord,

All: the lifting of my prayer as an evening sacrifice.

One: Holy one, as you are well pleased with Christ,
help us to live in a way that will be pleasing to you.

As you have called us to listen to Christ, help us to always heed his word and
seek his will. These things we pray in the name of Jesus, your beloved son,
our savior and Lord. Hear us now loving God as we raise the joys and concerns
of our hearts and minds to you and silent prayer.

(A period of silent personal prayer.)

One: As you have made this day, O God, you also make the night. Give light for our comfort.
Come upon us with quietness and still our souls, that we may listen for the whisper of
your Spirit and be attentive to your nearness in our dreams. Empower us to rise again in

new life to proclaim your praise, and show Christ to the world, for he reigns forever and ever.

All: Amen.

HYMN 99

Song of Mary

MORNING SONG

EVENING SCRIPTURE

Matthew 26:6-13 (pg.29)

The Anointing at Bethany

⁶Now while Jesus was in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, ⁷a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. ⁸But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, “Why this waste? ⁹For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum and the money given to the poor.” ¹⁰But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. ¹¹For you will always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. ¹²By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. ¹³Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

One: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

CONTEMPLATION

from: *Stages On The Way*; Wild Goose Publishing

It was on the Wednesday

It was on the Wednesday
that they called him a waster.

The place smelt like the perfume department
of a big store.

It was as if somebody had bumped their elbow
against a bottle
and sent it crashing to the floor,
setting off the most expensive stink bomb on earth.

But it happened in a house,
not a shop.

And the woman who broke the bottle
was no casual afternoon shopper.
She was the penniless poorest of the poor,
giving away the only precious thing she had.

And he sat still
while she poured the liquid all over his head...

My Soul Gives Glory to My God 99

Song of Mary



1 My soul gives glo - ry to my God; my
 2 My God has done great things for me: yes,
 3 From age to age to all who fear, such
 4 Love casts the might - y from their thrones, pro -
 5 Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup -



heart pours out its praise. God lift - ed up my
 ho - ly is God's name. All peo - ple will de -
 mer - cy love im - parts, dis - pens - ing jus - tice
 motes the in - se - cure, leaves hun - gry spir - its
 ports those in dis - tress, re - mem - ber - ing past



low - li - ness in man - y mar - vel - ous ways.
 clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.
 far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
 sat - is - fied; the rich seem sud - den - ly poor.
 prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

This 20th-century paraphrase is based on the Song of Mary (Luke 1:46–55), commonly known by its opening Latin word, *Magnificat*. This song of praise offers clear reminders that God's purposes often lead to the reversal of human values, exalting the poor and dethroning the mighty.

as unnecessary as aftershave
on a full crop of hair and a bearded chin.

And those who smelt it,
and those who saw it,
and those who remembered that he was against extravagance,
called him a waster.

They forgot
that he also was the poorest of the poor.

And they who had much
and who had given him nothing,
objected to a pauper giving him everything.

Jealousy was in the air
when a poor woman's generosity
became an embarrassment to their tight-fistedness...

That was on the Wednesday,
when they called him a waster.

SOLO

The Crucifixion

Damon Martin

Mark 15:17; John 19:17; Genesis 3:15; Judges 5:24;
Luke 23:34; Psalm 22; John 19:26-27; Revelation 21:6

We Go in God's Name

*TOLLING

PLEASE EXIT THE SANCTUARY IN SILENCE.
FEEL FREE TO GREET ONE ANOTHER OUTSIDE THE SANCTUARY DOOR.
THOSE WISHING TO BE SEATED AND REMAIN IN PRAYER
ARE WELCOME TO DO SO.