



First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Order of Service for Evensong May 7, 2025

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 - *Galatians 3:28*

(The water is poured.)

Leader: We thank you, O God, for the water of baptism.

All: 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.”

Leader: And you are welcome here.

TOLLING

OPENING CHANT

*OPENING SENTENCES

(Please rise as the light is spread from the Christ candle.)

Leader: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

All: the light no darkness can overcome.

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

All: and the day is almost over.

Leader: 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.

Let your light scatter the darkness

All: and illumine your church.

*EVENING HYMN 675

All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

TALLIS' CANON

675 All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

1 All praise to thee, my God, this night, for all the
 2 For - give me, Lord, through Christ, I pray, the wrong that
 3 O may my soul on thee re - pose, and with sweet
 4 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all

bless - ings of the light! Keep me, O keep me
 I have done this day, that I, be - fore I
 sleep mine eye - lids close. Re - fresh my strength, for
 crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye

safe from harm with - in the shel - ter of thine arm!
 sleep, may be at peace with neigh - bor, self, and thee.
 thine own sake, to serve thee well when I a - wake.
 heaven - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

**May be sung as a canon.*

Originally consisting of twelve stanzas, this was the bedtime hymn of the boys at Winchester School in England. Now it is one of the best-known evening hymns in English (usually matched with this tune and sung in canon), and its final stanza has taken on a life of its own.

We Proclaim God's Word

EVENING PRAYER

(The incense is lit.)

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

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

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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. We lift up before you this night the concerns of our congregation,
prayers for... Hear us now loving God as we raise the joys and concerns
of our hearts and minds to you in silent prayer.

(A period of silent personal prayer.)

Leader: As you have made this day, O God, you also make the night. Give rest 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.

SOLO

Psalm 119

Damon B. Martin

*Thy word for ever is, O Lord, in heaven settled fast;
Unto all generations thy faithfulness doth last:
The earth thou hast established, and it abides by thee.
This day they stand as thou ordain'dst; for all thy servants be.
Unless in thy most perfect law my soul delights had found,
I should have perished, when as my troubles did abound.
Thy precepts I will ne'er forget; they quick'ning to me brought.
Lord, I am thine; O save thou me: thy precepts I have sought.
For me the wicked have laid wait, me seeking to destroy:
But I thy testimonies true consider will with joy.
An end of all perfection here have I seen, O God:
But as for thy commandment, it is exceeding broad.*

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

All: Holy God, all goodness and truth comes from you. Keep us safe from evil and lead us in the paths of justice, that we may know the joy of trusting in you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

LECTIO DIVINA

LECTIO (READ)

MEDITATIO (MEDITATE)

ORATIO (PRAY)

CONTEMPLATIO (CONTEMPLATION)

The focus of Lectio Divina is not a critical analysis of sacred text, but rather a more personal way of experiencing the word through contemplation and reflection.

Revelation 7:13-17

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶ They will hunger no more and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat,

¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

We Respond to God's Word

CANTICLE

The Lord's Prayer

CHANT

(As the droning begins, please take a moment to tune your voice to the pitch before the chant.)

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

We Go in God's Name

EVENING PRAYER

Leader: Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;

All: for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.

Leader: Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

*HYMN 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

*DISMISSAL

Leader: Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping;
that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep rest in his peace.

All: May Almighty God bless, preserve, and keep us, this night and forevermore.

Leader: Bless the Lord.

All: The Lord's name be praised. Amen.

*TOLLING

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer-or's crush - ing grasp.



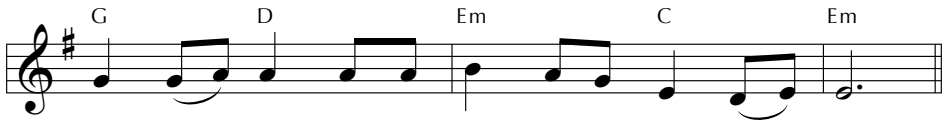
You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

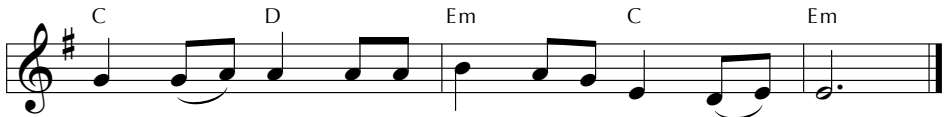
Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.