



First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Order of Service for Evening Prayer September 16, 2026

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 the congregation in reading the responses in **bold print**.

We Gather to Worship

*WORDS OF WELCOME - *Galatians 3:28*

(Please rise in body or spirit as the water is poured.)

Leader: Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

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

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIGHT

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

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

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

Leader: Let us pray. God of our night, as we settle into the evening, help us to see where you were in our day. Help us to hang on to the things that were good and release the things that burden us. As we sleep this night, may it be a peaceful one, and may we awake refreshed in the morning. Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our spirits;

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 677

The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ending

ST. CLEMENT

We Proclaim God's Word

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(The incense is lit.)

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

People: the lifting of our 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.

People: O God, in you I trust.

Leader: We give you thanks and praise, O God,...

Give us your peace, O God, that we may be confident of your care for all your children as we lift up before you this night the joys and concerns of our congregation, prayers for...

Hear us, Lord, as we continue to remember the celebrations and needs of others by offering the joys and concerns of our individual hearts and minds to you in silent prayer.

(A period of silent personal prayer.)

Leader: God our shepherd, you have brought us through this day to a time of reflection and rest. Calm our souls, and refresh us with your peace. Keep us close to Christ and draw us closer to one another and the bonds of his wondrous love. We pray through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

PSALM

Psalm 145:8-9, 18-19

Marina Quintanilla, Cantor

⁸*Lord, you are kind and merciful, slow to anger, and full of great compassion.*

⁹*You are good to all; your love extends to every living creature.*

¹⁸*Lord, you are near to those who call, to all who call in truth.*

¹⁹*You fulfill the desires of all who fear you; you will hear their cry and save them.*

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.

John 11:17-27

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

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

*HYMN 678

Our Darkness Is Never Darkness In Your Sight

LA TÉNÈBRE

(sung three times)

*CLOSING PRAYER

***DISMISSAL**

Leader: As night falls, we do not leave alone. Christ walks with us, his light guiding our steps,
his love sustaining our hearts.

People: We go, not as we came, but renewed, restored, and empowered.

Leader: What was broken, God is making whole. What was weary, God is strengthening.
What was lost, God is reclaiming.

**People: We step forward in faith, trusting in the One who is our healer, our hope,
and our life.**

Leader: Go in peace, in power, and in the name of Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

***TOLLING**

Visio Divina, *Divine Seeing*

Tonight, you are invited to a time of **Visio Divina**, *Divine Seeing*, using the image on the bulletin insert. There are four basic steps to begin the practice of Visio Divina:

- **Read:** Read the scripture verse, then be still. Settle into a posture to listen to God's voice.
- **Meditate:** Ponder the words, then gaze at, look at, and observe the picture. Ask questions and ask God to help you see what God wants you to see or what God wants you to notice. What stirs within you?
- **Pray:** Pray through the text or what you notice in the image.
- **Contemplate:** We live the text. A contemplative spiritual exercise is meant to lead us to gospel action in the world and a deeper connection with God.

Artwork on Back



The Raising of Lazarus from the Dead