

First Presbyterian Church

OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Order of Service for Evensong Communion September 17, 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 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.



This 20th-century hymn by a Scottish Jesuit paraphrases several traditional evening prayers and takes its shape from the familiar Welsh tune to which it is set. Its rhyme pattern requires considerable poetic skill, as only three rhymes serve for the eight lines of text.

We Proclaim God's Word

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.

PSALM

Psalm 79:1-9

Plea for Mercy for Jerusalem

¹O God, the nations have come into your inheritance; they have defiled your holy temple; they have laid Jerusalem in ruins.

²They have given the bodies of your servants to the birds of the air for food, the flesh of your faithful to the wild animals of the earth.

³They have poured out their blood like water

all around Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them.

*We have become a taunt to our neighbors,
mocked and derided by those around us.

5 How long, O LORD? Will you be angry forever?
Will your jealous wrath burn like fire?

6 Pour out your anger on the nations
that do not know you
and on the kingdoms
that do not call on your name.

7 For they have devoured Jacob
and laid waste his habitation.

8 Do not remember against us the iniquities of our ancestors;
let your compassion come speedily to meet us,
for we are brought very low.

9 Help us, O God of our salvation,
for the glory of your name;

MUSICAL RESPONSE

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.

deliver us and forgive our sins,

for your name's sake.

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.

Luke 16:10-13

¹⁰ "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been

faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

We Respond to God's Word

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.

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 99 My Soul Gives Glory to My God

MORNING SONG

*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

My Soul Gives Glory to My God 99



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.