



First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Order of Service for Evening Prayer September 30, 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. Amen.

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,...

O God, we are confident of your care for all your children, and 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 19:1-6

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. ²Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. ³There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; ⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, ⁵which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. ⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hidden from its heat.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE - hymn 690

677 The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ended

1 The day thou gav - est, Lord, is end - ed; the dark - ness
 2 We thank thee that thy church un - sleep - ing, while earth rolls
 3 As o'er each con - ti - nent and is - land the dawn leads
 4 The sun that bids us rest is wak - ing thy chil - dren
 5 So be it, Lord; thy throne shall nev - er, like earth's proud

falls at thy be - hest. To thee our morn - ing
 on - ward in - to light, through all the world a
 on an - oth - er day, the voice of prayer is
 'neath the west - ern sky, and hour by hour fresh
 em - pires, pass a - way; thy king - dom stands, and

hymns as - cend - ed; thy praise shall hal - low now our rest.
 watch is keep - ing and rests not now by day or night.
 nev - er si - lent, nor dies the song of praise a - way.
 lips are mak - ing thy won - drous do - ings heard on high.
 grows for - ev - er un - til there dawns thy glo - rious day.

Written as a confident expression of missionary expansion, this text has become a humbler evening reflection concerning the rest of the world and humanity's place in God's universe. The tune name honors both the composer's given name and the church where he was baptized.

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.

Matthew 21:42-46

⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes'?

⁴³ "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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)

Our Darkness Is Never Darkness 678

in Your Sight

La ténèbre n'est point ténèbre devant toi

Capo 2: (E) (Am) (G) (C) (F) (E)
F# Bm A D G F#

Our dark - ness is nev - er dark - ness in your sight: the
La té - nè - bre n'est point té - nè - bre de - vant toi: la

(Am) (G) (C) (Dm6) (Esus) (E)
Bm A D Em6 F#sus F#

deep - est night is clear as the day - light.
nuît com - me le jour est lu - miè - re.

Like other chants from the Taizé Community in France, this paraphrase of Psalm 139:12 is meant for repeated singing. It is most effective at evening services and works well with other Taizé chants such as "Within Our Darkest Night" (no. 294) and "The Lord Is My Light" (no. 842).

***CLOSING PRAYER**

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.

***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



Christ the Redeemer statue, Rio de Janeiro

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.