

SPRUCE RUN LUTHERAN CHURCH – LENTEN VESPERS – MARCH 22, 2023

OPENING DIALOGUE

Almighty God grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

Amen.

By day, O God,

you grant your steadfast love,

And at night your song is with me,

a prayer to the God of my life.

LBW#272 "ABIDE WITH ME"

VERSE 1



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
3 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

EVENING SUFFRAGES

Show us your mercy, O God,
and grant us your salvation.

Give us the joy of your saving help again,
and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

Give peace in all the world;
for only in you can we live in safety.

Keep the nations under your care,
and guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Let your way be known upon earth;
your saving health among all nations.

Let not the needy be forgotten,
nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and sustain me with your Holy Spirit.

Lord, hear my prayer,
and let my cry come before you.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray together.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, comfort the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

WORD

PSALMODY

ALL:

Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

CANTOR:

O Lord, I call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I cry to you.

ALL:

Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

CANTOR:

Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.
Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing; let me not be oc - cu -
pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers. But my eyes are
turned to you, Lord God; in you I take ref - uge. Strip me not of my life.

ALL:

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;

CANTOR:

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

ALL:

Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before you, O Lord, and let your lovingkindness descend upon us, that with purified minds we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host, and may glorify you forever and ever.

Amen.

PSALM 1

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

**Their delight is in the law | of the Lord,
and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night.**

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with
leaves that | do not wither;
everything they | do shall prosper.

**It is not so | with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.**

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

**For the Lord knows the way | of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed.**

SILENCE FOR MEDITATION

EPHESIANS 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

HOMILY

LBW#272 "ABIDE WITH ME"

VERSE 2 & 3

CONFESSION

Holy and gracious God,

I confess that I have sinned against you this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me, that I may rest in peace.

By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven. We rest now in his peace and rise in the morning to serve him.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Almighty God bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

LBW#272 "ABIDE WITH ME"
VERSE 4 & 5

Go in peace, serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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