



## Mid-Week Lenten Worship with Holden Evening Prayer

At St. Peter Lutheran Church  
March 22, 2023 at 6:30 PM

### Open My Ears, Lord

*Ancient Greek philosophy notes that we have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak. Jesus reminds us that we sometimes hear but don't listen, listen but don't understand. Opening our ears isn't as easy as it sounds.*

**PRELUDE / WELCOME** - The order for worship this evening is Holden Evening Prayer. All words and responses will be shown on the screen. Music booklets are available at the usher table. An offering plate is also available on the usher table; we invite you place your offerings there as you enter or as you exit this evening. Please enter and prepare your heart for worship.

#### OPENING LITANY

As children, we hear:

**Don't touch! Slow down!**

As teenagers, we hear:

**Your curfew begins in an hour.**

As adults, we hear:

**Cash or credit?**

In the water and the word, we hear:

**You are loved, my precious child.**

**GATHERING SONG**      "Lord, Be Glorified"      ELW #744

Verse 1: In my Life...

Verse 2: In my Ears...

- 1 In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;  
in my life, Lord, be glorified today.
- 2 In my ears, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;  
in my ears, Lord, be glorified today.

#### PRAYER

Open our ears, Lord, to heed your will for our lives. Help us not only to hear, but to listen and understand with our hearts. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

#### PROCESSION

Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world; **the light no darkness can overcome;**  
Stay with us now, for it is evening, **and the day is almost over.**

Let your light scatter the darkness, **and shine within your people here.**

**EVENING HYMN (ALL)** *(Words on screen and in Holden booklets)*

**EVENING THANKSGIVING**

May God be with you all. **and also with you.**

Let us sing our thanks to God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, Creator of the universe - from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation. **Amen.**

**PSALMODY**

*(As we sing, we invite you to follow the leaders in front of your section. The screen side will be Group One. The piano side will be Group Two.)*

*Refrain*

**Let my prayer rise up like incense before you,  
the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.**

**Verse 1: O God, I call to you, come to me now;  
oh, hear my voice when I cry to you. Refrain**

**Verse 2: Keep watch within me, God; deep in my heart may the  
light of your love be burning bright. Refrain**

**Verse 3: All praise to the God of all--Creator of life;  
all praise be to Christ and the Spirit of love. Refrain**

**READING**

Psalm 28

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, do not refuse to hear me, for if you are silent to me, I shall be like those who go down to the Pit. <sup>2</sup>Hear the voice of my supplication, as I cry to you for help, as I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary. <sup>3</sup>Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who are workers of evil, who speak peace with their neighbors, while mischief is in their hearts. <sup>4</sup>Repay them according to their work, and according to the evil of their deeds; repay them according to the work of their hands; render them their due reward. <sup>5</sup>Because they do not regard the works of the LORD, or the work of his hands, he will break them down and build them up no more. <sup>6</sup>Blessed be the LORD, for he has heard the sound of my pleadings. <sup>7</sup>The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him. <sup>8</sup>The LORD is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed. <sup>9</sup>O save your people, and bless your heritage; be their shepherd, and carry them forever.

**READING**

Matthew 13:10-17

<sup>10</sup>Then the disciples came and asked him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. <sup>12</sup>For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>13</sup>The reason I speak to them in parables is that 'seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.' <sup>14</sup>With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says: 'You will indeed listen, but never understand, and you will indeed look, but never perceive. <sup>15</sup>For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn — and I would heal them.' <sup>16</sup>But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. <sup>17</sup>Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.

**REFLECTION**

Lay Faith Story from Kelly Gochenaur

**RESPONSE HYMN** "Listen, God is Calling" ELW #513*Refrain*

(Listen,)

listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,  
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

(Listen,)

listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,  
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

- 1 (Jesus gave his mandate:)  
share the good news  
(that he came to save us)  
and set us free. *Refrain*
- 2 (Let none be forgotten)  
throughout the world.  
(In the triune name of God)  
go and baptize. *Refrain*
- 3 (Help us to be faithful,)  
standing steadfast,  
(walking in your precepts,)  
led by your Word. *Refrain*

**RESPONSE**

The Light shines in the darkness  
**and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**MAGNIFICAT (ALL)** (Words on screen and in Holden booklets)

**LITANY AND PRAYERS** (even-numbered petitions)

**Hmmm. God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For peace and salvation, we pray to you:

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For us who are gathered to worship and praise you:

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For all those who govern, that justice might guide them:

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

Grant weather that nourishes all of creation:

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For all the beloved who rest in your mercy:

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

Help us, comfort us, all of our days:

**Keep us, hold us, gracious God.**

Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:

**Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come: your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

Let us bless our God: **praise and thanks to you.**

May God, Creator bless us and keep us, may Christ be ever light for our lives, may the Spirit of Love be our guide and path, for all of our days. **Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go into the world with eyes open to the transforming light of Christ, hands open to serve those you meet, ears open to the call of the Spirit, hearts open to the bountiful love of God, and lives open to follow Christ to the cross. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

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**LENTEN WORSHIP: HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER AT 6:30 P.M.**

Our theme for Lent, this year, is "Open My Life, Lord", interpreted through the lens of the new mission statement for the La Crosse Area Synod; "Cultivating Life-Giving Relationships, Rooted in God's Love". We will hear from a different member of the congregation each of these weeks. They will share a message on one of the topics; encountering God through eyes, hands, ears, heart, life.

**LENTEN MEAL:** Served each Wednesday in March from 5-6 p.m. Free-will offerings will go to support various ministries of the church and our mission partners.

**LENTEN GIVING** Along side our Lenten Midweek Theme, "Open My Life, Lord", we will be highlighting a different charitable organization each week. This week, our focus mode of life is "Ears". Thistle Farms is a nonprofit social enterprise dedicated to helping women survivors recover and heal from prostitution, trafficking, and addiction. They do this by providing a safe place to live, a meaningful job, and a lifelong sisterhood of support. We believe love is the most powerful force for change in the world. Because love has the power to heal. For more information and to support this ministry visit [www.thistlefarms.org](http://www.thistlefarms.org) .