



Mid-Week Lenten Worship with Holden Evening Prayer

At St. Peter Lutheran Church
March 15, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Open My Heart, Lord

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

Open our hearts, Lord, to behold your laws.

Teach us to walk in your commandments.

Grant us grace to know and understand your will,

for all that we are in body and soul is a gift from you.

Lord, you are the everlasting Truth,

the one who speaks the words of eternal life.

Open our hearts, Lord, to behold your laws.

Teach us to walk in your commandments.

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

Verse 1: In my Life...

Verse 2: In my Heart...

PRAYER

Open our hearts, Lord, and fill us with your love. Grant us strength and courage, remove our hard-heartedness, and turn us always to you. 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 40:1-8

¹I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

²He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. ³He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD. ⁴Happy are those who make the LORD their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods. ⁵You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.

⁶Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.

⁷Then I said, "Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

⁸I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

READING

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

¹As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless

nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. ¹¹We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. ¹²There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. ¹³In return — I speak as to children — open wide your hearts also.

REFLECTION

Lay Faith Story from Mike McCoy

RESPONSE HYMN *“Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord”*

Refrain: Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart. I want to see You. I want to see You (repeat)

Verse: To see You high and lifted up, Shinin' in the light of Your glory. Pour out Your power and love. As we sing holy, holy, holy. Refrain

Bridge: I want to see You. Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy. I want to see You

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 (odd-numbered petitions)

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

In peace, in peace, we pray to you:

God of mercy, hold us in love.

For peace between nations, for peace between peoples:

God of mercy, hold us in love.

For all of your servants who live out your gospel:

God of mercy, hold us in love.

For all those who labor in service to others:

God of mercy, hold us in love.

Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger:

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.**

My 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 "heart". Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, LDR stays to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. Visit LDR on the ELCA website to learn more or donate to one of their 11 current projects.

LENTEN DEVOTIONS AND CALENDARS are available, in the back of the sanctuary. Please, take one to guide you in your daily Lenten practice at home. The weekly Bible Study booklet and daily practice calendar were developed by the ELCA World Hunger task force.