



AN ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE EVENING

Officiant: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. – Matthew 5:14-16

Officiant: Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever. **Amen**

The candles are now lighted.

God our Father, source of all light, you revealed to the aged Simeon your light which enlightens the nations. Fill our hearts with the light of

faith, that we who bear these candles may walk in the path of goodness, and come to the Light that shines forever, your Son Jesus Christ. **Amen**

The following is then sung

HYMN

Hymnal 1982 – 25

1 O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ, in you the Father's glory shone.
Immortal, holy, blest is he, and blest are you, his holy Son.

2 Now sunset comes, but light shines forth,
the lamps are lit to pierce the night.

Praise Father, Son, and Spirit: God who dwells in the eternal light.

3 Worthy are you of endless praise, O Son of God, Life-giving Lord;
wherefore you are through all the earth and in the highest heaven
adored.

MATTHEW 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us join our hearts and minds together as we pray to God for our own needs, and for the needs of the world by responding,
Lead us, Lord.

As we recall the star that shone above the birth Jesus, we pray that your Church throughout the world will lead all seekers to find you and to share the hope of the risen Christ with our hurting world.

Lead us, Lord.

As we reflect that time when the world first began to recognize your Son in our world, we pray that we will be led to learn to recognize Christ in the people that we meet.

Lead us, Lord.

As we recall the ways that Jesus showed us examples of how to serve others, we pray that we will be led to serve others as he did.

Lead us, Lord.

As we remember Jesus' birth without a home, his journey to Egypt to preserve his life, and the hurtful words he heard during his ministry, we pray that we will be led to respond to the children in our world who are homeless, abused, neglected, and threatened.

Lead us, Lord.

As we recollect Isaiah calling from the wilderness to make straight the way of the Lord, we pray that we will be led to show the mercy and love of Christ to those in any trouble or need.

Lead us, Lord.

As we reminisce about the journey of the three kings, we pray that the leaders of our towns, our state, our nation and the nations of the world will be led to act with wisdom, humility, and peacefulness.

Lead us, Lord.

As we remember that the infant Jesus grew, died, and rose again, we pray that we will be led to join with the company of all faithful departed in your heavenly kingdom.

Lead us, Lord.

Grant us, Lord, the lamp of charity which never fails, that it may burn in us and shed its light on those around us, and that by its brightness we may have a vision of that holy City, where dwells the true and never-failing Light, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP P. 364

Officiant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

People and Officiant

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, the power, and the glory,

Forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

Ruth Cunningham

Arise, shine

Arise, shine, for your light has come,

And the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.

Officiant: 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, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. **Amen.**

The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you. **Amen.**

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Officiant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you