

ASSEMBLY EDITION

UNFAILING LIGHT

An evening setting of Holy Communion



Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl

Unfailing Light

Written for communities worshipping at the close of the day, this setting draws upon scripture that evokes eventide, especially in the gathering and sending—our transitions from one kind of time to another. The Spirit calls us out of time marked by daylight and darkness, measured by clocks and calendars, and gathers us into time welling up from the past, widening toward the future, and welcoming eternity.

In the opening dialogue we sing from Psalm 113, one of the *Hallel* or Hallelujah psalms traditionally sung at sundown before the Passover meal. The hymn of praise begins with an image of the dawn of time from Genesis 1—God setting lights in the “dome of the sky” to illumine earth by night and day. It ends with a vision from Revelation 22 of the fullness of time—Christ making all things new and the faithful worshipping by the unfailing light of God’s glory.

The story of the two disciples walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus as the sun sets on the day of Christ’s resurrection flows through this setting (Luke 24:13–35). Verses from this story annotate the movement of our prayer—gathering, word, meal, sending—the pattern of the church’s worship since the earliest Christians gathered on the first day of the week to devote themselves “to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42).

As in every time and place, when the Spirit gathers us around the word and sacrament, the means of grace, Christ Jesus, crucified and risen, comes among us as he promised. Our hearts burn as he reveals himself in scripture, our eyes are opened to recognize him in the breaking of the bread, and by faith we receive him. He gives us forgiveness, life and salvation, and sends us, nourished, strengthened and refreshed, to become what we have received: his body, blest, broken and given for the sake of the life of the world.

*To the glory of God
and in thanksgiving for*

*the worshipping community of Lutheran Campus Ministry, ELCA
serving University of Texas students since 1937*

*and the Rev. Dr. Curtis A. Johnson+ (“PJ”)
who served as Campus Pastor from 1967 to 1992*

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Gathering

*The disciples urged Jesus strongly, saying,
"Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over."
So he went in to stay with them.*

A Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness

In remembrance of their baptism, all may make the sign of the cross.

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Blessed be God

who is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and rich in love.
God does not treat us as our sins deserve
nor punish us according to our guilt,
but looks upon us in compassion,
forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

Therefore, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection, self-examination, and confession.

Have mercy, O God,
against you, you alone, have we sinned.


**In your compassion,
cleanse us from our sin
and take away our guilt.
Create in us a new heart,
and give us a steadfast spirit.
Do not cast us away,
but fill us with your Holy Spirit
and restore your joy within us.**

As tender as parent to child,
so gentle is God with you.
As high as heaven is above earth,
so vast is God's love for you.
As far as east is from west,
so far God removes your sin from you,
renewing your life through Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.
Blessed be God forever.


The assembly stands as the assisting minister summons the people to praise:

Assisting Minister




O ser - vants of God, let us sing our praise.

All



We bless your ho - ly name, O God.

Assisting Minister



From the ris - ing of the sun to its set - ting,

All



We bless your ho - ly name, O God.

Assisting Minister




You lift up the weak and hun - gry.

All



We bless your ho - ly name, O God.

Assisting Minister *All*



And your glo - ry shines a - bove the heav - ens We



bless your ho - ly name, O God.



1. Your can - o - py of vig - il lights, each
 (2. You) walk with us a - long the way, your
 (3. Re-) freshed by sab - bath rest this night, a -



star your hand has set in place, be - stows a bless - ing
 Word, a lamp to pil - grim feet; stay with us now at
 wak - en us to your sha - lom: the reign of Christ, un -



on the night, and all cre - a - tion sings your
 close of day, our un - known guest, our host and
 fail - ing Light, where peace and jus - tice are at



praise. You formed the moon and fired the sun, you
 feast. Grant those who share this eve - ning meal the
 home and saints need nei - ther moon nor sun to



quick - ened dust with ho - ly breath, and
 faith and vi - sion to be - lieve that
 sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly, O



bind - ing us to your dear Son, re -
 hearts might see what eyes con - ceal: by
 mer - ci - ful, im - mor - tal One, O



newed our life, de - stroyed our death. 2. You
 grace your pres - ence we re - ceive. 3. Re -
 bless - ed, ho - ly Trin - i - ty.

Greeting

The presiding minister greets the assembly:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Prayer *(See insert)*

Reading: *(see insert)*

Homily

Hymn of the Day: *(see insert)*

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

An assisting minister leads the people in prayer:

Let us pray for the church,
people everywhere according to their needs,
and the whole creation.

Each petition may end with these or similar words:

In your mercy,
Receive our prayer.

The presiding minister gathers the petitions and closes the prayer:

Into your hands, gracious God,
we place all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy made known to us in Christ Jesus.
Amen.

Greeting of Peace

The presiding minister and the assembly greet one another with the peace of Christ.

The peace of the risen Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

The ministers and the people may greet one another saying:

Peace be with you. R: And also with you.

Sit

Offering: *For on-line worshipers please mail to the office at 9212 Taylorsville Road, 40299 or contact the office for instructions for direct deposit. You may also use our on-line app at tithe.ly or scan QR code on the right)*

Stand



SCAN ME

Meal

When Jesus was at the table with them,
he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.
Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

Gathering of Gifts

The gifts of the assembly are gathered for the sake of all in need.

The table of the Lord's supper is prepared; the assembly stands to sing:

The musical score is written in 4/4 time on a single treble clef staff. It begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. A repeat sign is placed after the first measure, with the word 'All' written above it. The lyrics are printed below the staff, with some words split across lines. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

All

1. The eyes of all look to
2. To all who hun - ger

you, O God, to give them life and food. You
you pro - vide the fruit of vine and field. From

o - pen wide your gra - cious hand and
these, your gifts, we set a - side a

grant them ev - 'ry good. With
por - tion for this meal, where

all cre - a - tion we pro - claim your
you draw near to those who cry, their

stead - fast love and glo - rious reign. We
heart's de - sire to sat - is - fy. We

bless your ho - ly name.
bless your ho - ly name.

The assisting minister prays:
Let us pray.

We bless you, O God, gracious and merciful;
you bring forth food from the earth
and nourish your whole creation.
Turn our hearts toward those who hunger
that all may know your care.
Prepare us now to feast upon your mercy:
Jesus Christ, the bread of life.
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving


The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites the assembly to give thanks:

Presider *All*




The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Presider *All*




Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The presiding minister gives God thanks and invites the assembly to join heaven's hymn of praise:

The musical score consists of seven staves of music in G major. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a 6/8 time signature, and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The word "All" is written above the staff. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is the One who comes, who Bless - ed is he who comes in the name, comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est." The music features various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

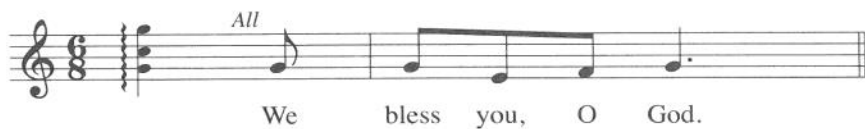
The presiding minister continues giving thanks to God; the people add their acclamations of praise:

Holy God,
you alone are holy,
you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars,
beneath the sea,
within each cell,
with every breath.

The musical score consists of one staff of music in G major. It begins with a treble clef, a 6/8 time signature, and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The word "All" is written above the staff. The lyrics are: "We praise you, O God." The music features a simple melody with eighth and sixteenth notes.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the waters,
across the wilderness,
by night and day,
out of exile,
into the future.



We give you thanks for your Son:
at the heart of human life,
near to those who suffer,
beside the sinner,
among the poor,
with us now.



The presiding minister proclaims:

On the night he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us
on the way,
at the table,
and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:



All
Christ has died.

The first line of music is in treble clef with a 6/8 time signature. It consists of two measures: the first has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4; the second has a half note C5. The third measure begins with the word 'All' above it and contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5, all beamed together. The lyrics 'Christ has died.' are written below the notes.



Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

The second line of music continues in the same key and time signature. It consists of two measures: the first has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4; the second has a half note C5. The lyrics 'Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.' are written below the notes.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering,
upon this bread,
within this cup,
among your people,
throughout the world.

Blessing, praise,
and thanks to you, Holy God,
for your mercy,
through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit,
in your Church,
without end.



All
A - men.

The third line of music is in treble clef with a 6/8 time signature. It consists of two measures: the first has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4; the second has a half note C5. The third measure begins with the word 'All' above it and contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5, all beamed together. The lyrics 'A - men.' are written below the notes.



A - men. A - men.

The fourth line of music continues in the same key and time signature. It consists of two measures: the first has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4; the second has a half note C5. The lyrics 'A - men. A - men.' are written below the notes.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered around the table by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray as Jesus taught:

**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 for ever. Amen.**

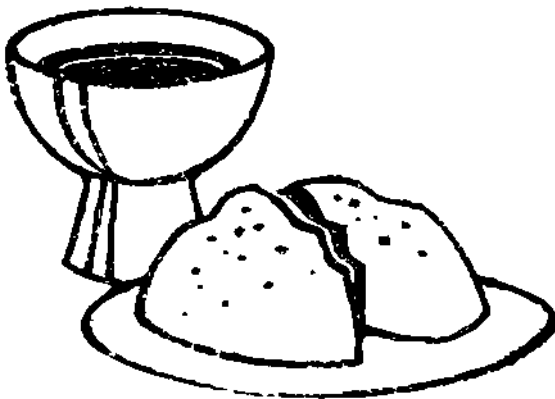
Communion

The presiding minister invites the assembly to the table:

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Each person may respond after receiving the bread and the cup:
Amen.



Sending

*That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem.
They told what had happened on the road
and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.*

Prayer

The assisting minister prays:

Let us pray.

Creator of the stars of night,
we give you thanks for this gift of life.
Increase our faith and open our eyes
that we might recognize Jesus
in all whom you call us to love and serve.
Abide with us as darkness deepens
and be our hope and highest joy,
until at last with all your saints
we dwell in your unfailing Light.
Amen.

Blessing

The presiding minister blesses the assembly:

Holy God, Blessed Trinity,
strengthen your faith,
increase your hope,
deepen your love,
✠ and give you peace
this night and always.
Amen.

Sending

The assisting minister sends the assembly forth:

Go in peace. Rest in God. Rise to serve.
Thanks be to God.

