

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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By Your Hand You Feed Your People: words © 2000 by GIA Publications, Inc.
Kyrie: music © 2001 by GIA Publications, Inc.

Watch, O Lord: words and music © 2003 by GIA Publications, Inc.

Let Evening Fall: words and music © 2002 by GIA Publications, Inc.

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.

The Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness may be used before this service (p.20).

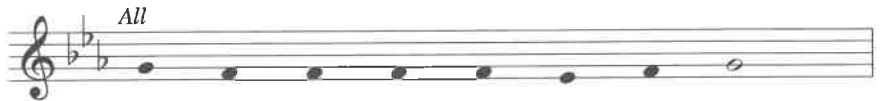
The assembly stands as the assisting minister summons the people to praise:

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



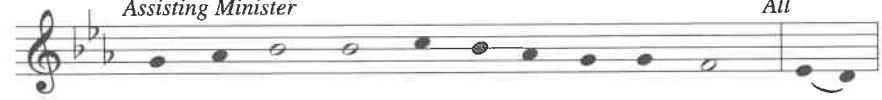
You lift up the weak and hun - gry.

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.

All

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

The presiding minister leads the prayer appointed for the day:

Let us pray.

The assembly responds:

Amen.

Sit

Word

*Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,
Jesus interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.*

First Reading

The reading may be concluded:

Word of God,
Word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm

In response to the reading, a psalm is sung.

Second Reading

The reading may be concluded:

Word of God,
Word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

The assembly stands and welcomes the gospel in song.

The refrain may be repeated to accompany a procession.

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al-le-lu-ia,



al-le-lu-ia; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

Verse



Your words are sweet to taste,



sweet - er than hon - ey to our mouth.

To Refrain

Or during Lent



We do not live by bread a -



lone, but by ev-'ry word that comes from your mouth, O



Je - sus Christ, Son of the liv - ing God.

The gospel is announced:

The holy gospel according to _____, the _____ chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel

The gospel is proclaimed. The reading concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows.

Stand

Hymn of the Day

The assembly proclaims the word in song.

Creed

The Nicene Creed (p. 23) or the Apostles' Creed (p. 24) may be spoken.

Prayers of Intercession

"Watch, O Lord" (p. 21) may be sung as an alternate form of intercessory prayer.

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

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:



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:

All



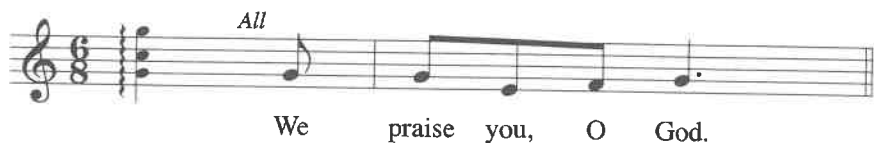
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is the One who comes, who
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name,
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

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

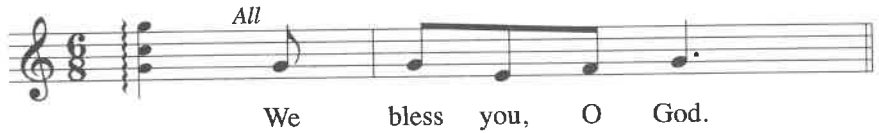
The universe declares your praise:
 beyond the stars,
 beneath the sea,
 within each cell,
 with every breath.

All

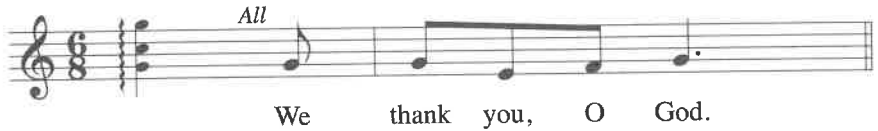


We praise you, O God.

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:

The first line of music is in G major, 6/8 time, and begins with a treble clef. It contains a half note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a dotted half note C, and a half note D. Above the second measure is the word *All*. The second line of music continues with a half note E, a quarter note F, a quarter note G, a dotted half note A, and a half note B. Below the notes are the lyrics: "Christ has died." and "Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain."

All
 Christ has died.
 Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

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.

The first line of music is in G major, 6/8 time, and begins with a treble clef. It contains a half note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a dotted half note C, and a half note D. Above the second measure is the word *All*. The second line of music continues with a half note E, a quarter note F, a quarter note G, a dotted half note A, and a half note B. Below the notes are the lyrics: "A - men." and "A - men. A - men."

All
 A - men.
 A - men. A - men.

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.

Lamb of God

Congregational song and other music may accompany the breaking of the bread and the communion of the people, and may begin with the following:



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.



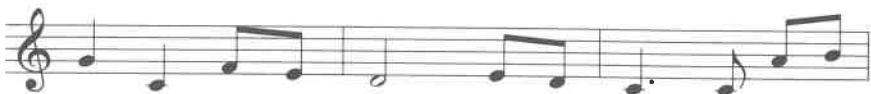
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Hymn after Communion

The assembly stands to sing while the ministers commune and the table is cleared.



1. By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of
 2. In this meal we taste your sweet - ness, bread for
 3. Send us now with faith and cour - age to the



an - gels, heav - en's bread; for these gifts we did not
 hun - ger, wine of peace; ho - ly Word and ho - ly
 hun - gry, lost, be - reaved. In our liv - ing and our



la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:
 wis - dom sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.
 dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:



Christ's own bod - y, blessed and bro - ken, cup o'er-



flow - ing, life out - poured, giv - en as a liv - ing



to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.

Or

All

Now Lord, you let your
 ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful - filled. My
 own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-
 pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a
 light to re - veal you to the na - tions, and the
 glo-ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - - el.
 Now Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace.

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.

Hymn or Song

A sending song or evening hymn may be sung.

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.

Appendix One: Alternate Gathering Rite

This alternate gathering rite may be used during Lent and Advent and on ordinary Sundays.

The assembly stands; the presiding minister leads the people in blessing the triune God. All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of their baptism.

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,
source of all goodness and life,
who clothes us with ☩ Christ Jesus
and makes us one by the Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God forever.

Kyrie

Assisting Minister

In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

All

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e -

le - i - son, e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son.

Assisting Minister

Petition..... let us pray.

Assisting Minister

Help, save, com-fort and de - fend us, O

All

God. A -

<i>To the Prayer of the Day</i>	<i>To the Evening Hymn of Praise</i>
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men. men.

Appendix Two: 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.

Appendix Three: Two Evening Hymns

The following song may be used as the Prayers of Intercession (p. 8) or as the hymn after communion.

WATCH, O LORD

A prayer by St. Augustine
adapt. M.H.

Tune: AUGUSTINE
Marty Haugen

Refrain
All

Watch, O Lord, with all those a -
wake this night. Watch, O Lord, with all those who
weep. Give your an - gels and saints
charge o - ver all who sleep.

Verses

Assisting Minister *All* *Assisting Minister*
in your love, Lord.

All *Assisting Minister*
in your love, Lord.

All *To Refrain*
in your love, O Lord of all.

LET EVENING FALL

Susan Briehl

Tune: EMILY
Marty Haugen

1. Let eve - ning fall on field and for - est, on
 2. Let moun - tain now re - sound with chant - ing, and
 3. Let those who la - bor in the day - light now
 4. Let ev - 'ry heart that har - bors ha - tred re -
 5. Let day - light fade and shad - ows length - en when
 6. O Mak - er of cre - a - tion's choir, O



des - ert me - sa, can - yon deep; let
 mead - ow ech - o an - ti - phon; let
 bring their work - ing to an end; let
 lease its hold, re - ceive your grace; let
 those we love draw near to death; at -
 Song of love sung out for all, O



coy - ote prowl and night hawk cir - cle while
 dusk - y breez - es rus - tle as - pen while
 oth - ers rise to keep the vig - il, the
 ev - 'ry mouth that spoke in an - ger seek
 tend our prayers, our weak faith strength - en as
 Spir - it, breath of all our sing - ing, let



sol - emn owl her wise watch keeps.
 lake and land join ev - en - song.
 weak to guard, the sick to tend.
 par - don's peace, then sing your praise.
 you re - ceive their fi - nal breath.
 praise a - rise, let eve - ning fall.

Appendix Four: Nicene Creed and Apostles' Creed

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

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**

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