



**HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER**  
**A Joint Offering of the Genesee Finger Lakes Conference**  
**Lent 2021**

*Service of Light*

*We gather in darkness for a time of reflection and personal prayer.  
Find a quiet space and light a candle wherever you are as the service begins.*

Procession:

*Leader:* Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;  
**All: the light no darkness can overcome;**

*Leader:* Stay with us now, for it is evening,  
**All: and the day is almost over.**

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

Evening Hymn:

Joyous light of heav'nly glory,  
loving glow of God's own face,  
you who sing creation's story,  
shine on ev'ry land and race.  
Now as ev'ning falls around us,  
we shall raise our songs to you,  
God of daybreak, God of shadows,  
come and light our hearts anew.

In the stars that grace the darkness,  
In the blazing sun of dawn,  
in the light of peace and wisdom,  
we can hear your quiet song.  
Love that fills the night with wonder,  
love that warms the weary soul,  
Love that bursts all chains asunder,  
set us free and make us whole.

You who made the heaven's splendor,  
ev'ry dancing star of night,  
make us shine with gentle justice,  
let us each reflect your light.  
Mighty God of all creation,  
gentle Christ who lights our way,  
Loving Spirit of salvation,  
lead us on to endless day.

Evening Thanksgiving:

*Leader:* May God be with you all,

**All: and also with you;**

*Leader:* Let us sing our thanks to God,

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

*Leader:* 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.

**All: Amen.**

Psalm 141 – Let My Prayer Rise Up

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

**O God, I call to you, come to me now; O hear my voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.**

**Keep watch within me, God; deep in my heart may the light of your love be burning bright. Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.**

**All praise to the God of all – Creator of life; all praise be to Christ and the Spirit of love. Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the lifting of my hands as an offering to you.**

Prayer:

*Leader:* May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.

*All:* **Amen**

Reading:

**Week 1**

Reading: Mark 4:35-41 *Jesus calms a storm*

Theme: Community with creation

**Week 2**

Mark 9:2-8 *Jesus is in conversation with those who have gone before him*

Theme: Community with the saints

**Week 3**

Mark 2:1-12 *A community comes together to bring a neighbor to Jesus*

Theme: Community with our neighbor

**Week 4**

Mark 5:1-20 *Jesus crosses barriers to attend to those on the margins*

Theme: Community with those on the margins

**Week 5**

Mark 10:32-45 *Jesus reminds us that we are walking the way of the cross*

Theme: Community with Christ

Reflection

*Leader:* The Light shines in the darkness

*All:* **and the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Annunciation:

Luke 1:26–28, 30–32, 38

*Leader:* An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, “Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High.” And Mary said, “I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will.”

The Magnificat:

Luke 1: 46-55

- 1 My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you,  
You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through.  
Great and mighty are you, O Holy One, strong is your kindness ever more.  
How you favor the weak and lowly one, humbling the proud of heart.
  
- 2 You have cast the mighty down from their thrones, and up lifted the humble of heart,  
You have filled the hungry with wondrous things, and left the wealthy no part.  
Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One, strong is your justice strong your love,  
As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness forevermore.

3 *Repeat verse 1*

Litany and Prayers:

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

**Leader:** In peace, in peace we pray to you: *God of mercy, hold us in love.*

For peace and salvation 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 us who are gathered to worship and praise you: *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 govern, that justice might guide them: *God of mercy, hold us in love.*

For all those who labor in service to others: *God of mercy, hold us in love.*

Grant weather that nourishes all of creation: *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.*

For all the beloved who rest in your mercy: *God of mercy, hold us in love.*

**Leader:** Help us, comfort us, all of our days:

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

**Leader:** 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.

**All:**      **Amen**

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

**All:**      **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come: your will be done on earth as it is 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.**

Final Blessing:

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

*Leader:* May God, Creator bless 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.  
**All:** **Amen.**

*Leader:* Go in the peace of Christ.  
**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

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Week 1 – St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Pittsford, NY

Week 2– Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Fairport, NY

Week 3 – Incarnate Word Lutheran Church, Rochester, NY  
and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Webster, NY

Week 4 – St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Geneseo, NY

Week 5 – Trinity Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Rochester, NY

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