

Lenten Wednesday
March 4 2026, 7:00 PM

Knowing the Message

Words of Welcome

ELW 512 Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

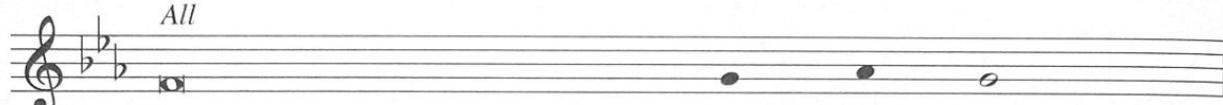
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Leader or Assistant



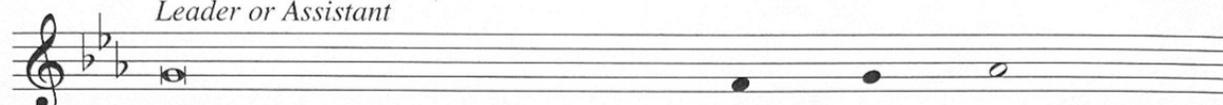
Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world,

All



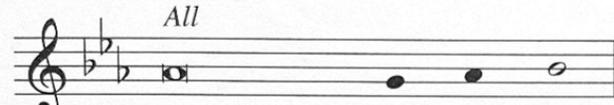
the light no darkness can o - ver - come.

Leader or Assistant



Stay with us now, for it is evening,

All



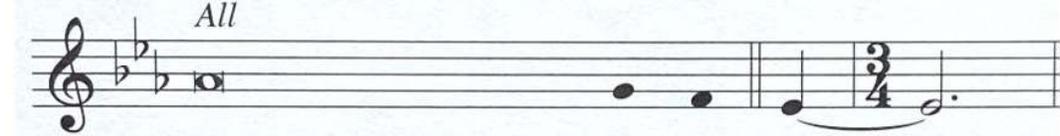
and the day is al - most over.

Leader or Assistant



Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

All



and shine within your peo - ple here.

All

1. Joy - ous light of heav'n - ly glo - ry, lov - ing

glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's

sto - ry, shine on ev - 'ry land and race. Now as

eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to

you. God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and

light our hearts a - new.

All



2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the



blaz - ing sun of dawn, of the light of peace and



wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that



fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry



soul, love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us



free and make us whole.

All



3. You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry



danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle



jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y



God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our



way, lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us



on to end - less day.

Leader or Assistant *All*

May God be with you all. And al - so with you.

Leader or Assistant *All*

Let us sing our thanks to God. 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

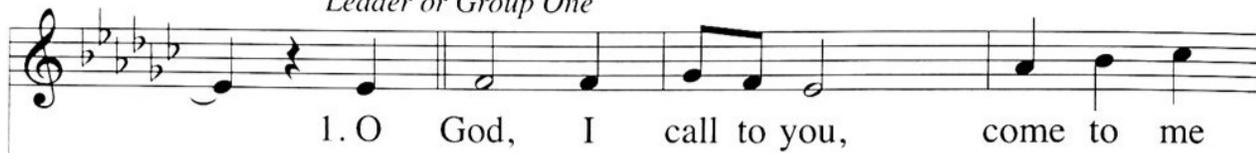
A - men.

Refrain

All

Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be - fore you, the
lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

Leader or Group One

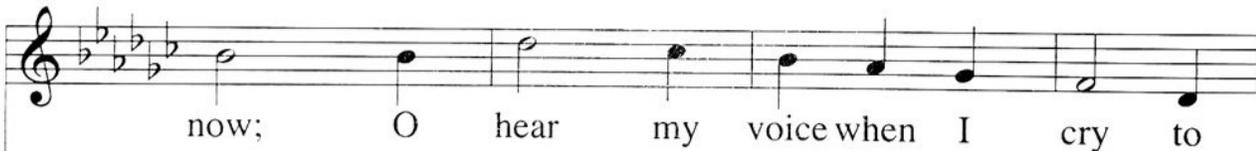


1. O God, I call to you, come to me

All or Group Two



1. O God, I

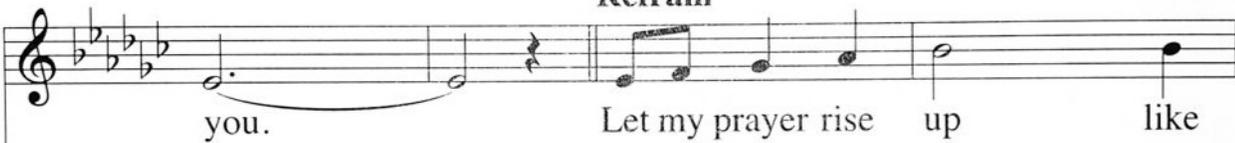


now; O hear my voice when I cry to

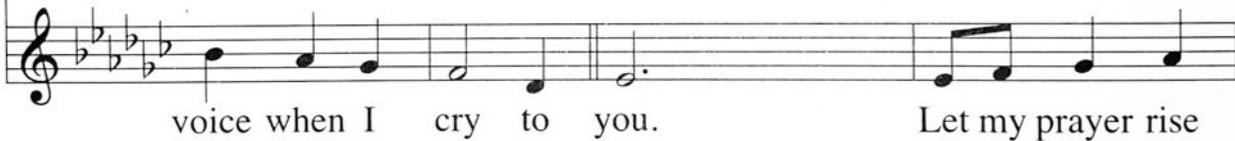


call to you, come to me now; O hear my

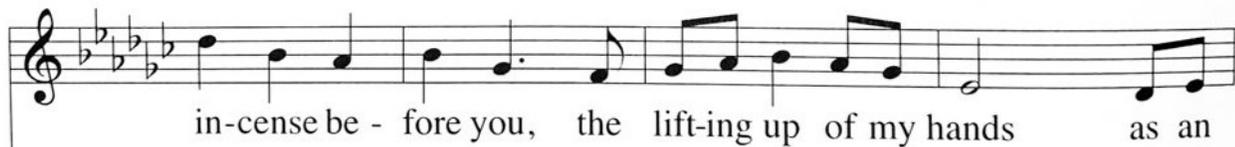
Refrain



you. Let my prayer rise up like



voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise



in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an



up like in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my

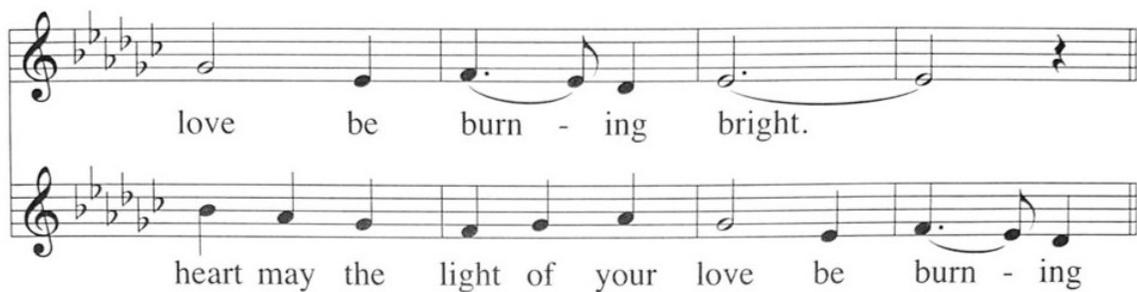
Verse 2



of-fer-ing to you. 2. Keep watch with -
hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

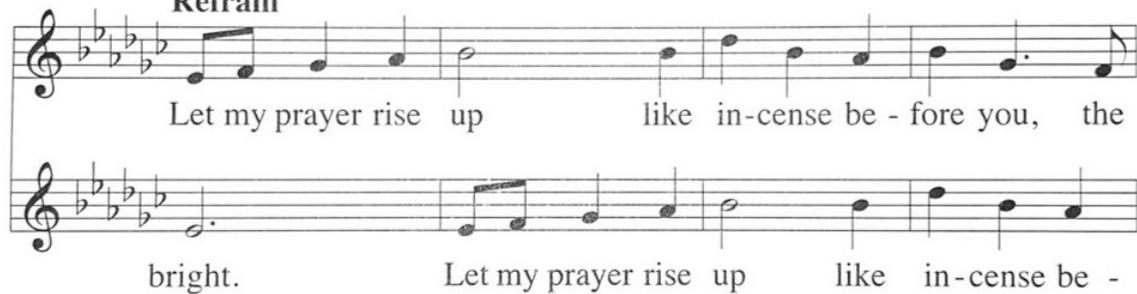


in me, God; deep in my heart may the light of your
2. Keep watch with - in me, God; deep in my



love be burn - ing bright.
heart may the light of your love be burn - ing

Refrain



Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be - fore you, the
bright. Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be -

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to

Verse 3

3. All praise to the God of all, Cre - a - tor of

you. 3. All praise to the

life; all praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of

God of all, Cre - a - tor of life; all praise be to

Refrain

love. Let my prayer rise up like

Christ and the Spir-it of love. Let my prayer rise

in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an
up like in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my
of - fer-ing to you.
hands as an of - fer-ing to you.

silence for meditation

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.

Scriptures 1 Peter 3:13-16 and Luke 21:12-15, NRSVUE

1 Peter 3:13-16

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.

Luke 21:12-15

¹² “But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict.

Homily

Knowing the Message

Dakota Road Music Good News

GOOD NEWS

Larry Olson

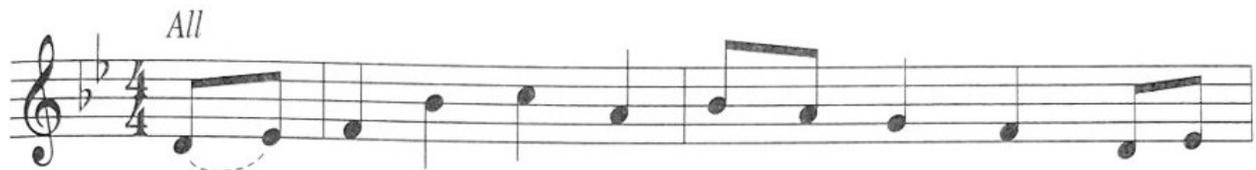
Good News! There has been a Sav - ior born.
Good News! That is why we sing.
Good News! Danc - ing through the cen - tur - ies.
Good News! Chang - ing ev - 'ry - thing.
Hear the cries, hear the sighs,
See the might, see the fright,
hear the whys? un - spok - en.
see the light for liv - ing.
Feel the blame, feel the shame,
Know the One, know the Son,
and all the pain of be - ing lost and brok - en.
and what's been done to set us free for giv - ing.

©1993 Dakota Road Music
All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

One: The Light shines in the darkness

All: And the darkness has not overcome it

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."



1. My soul pro-claims your great-ness, O God, and my



spir - it re - joic - es in you. You have looked with love on your



ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.



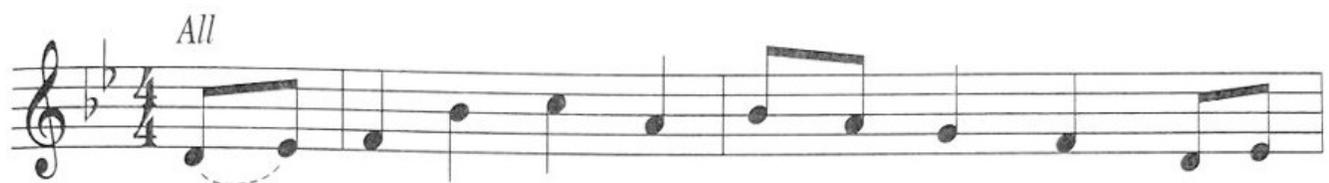
Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,



strong is your kind-ness ev - er-more. How you fa - vor the



weak and low-ly one, hum - bling the proud of heart!



2. You have cast the might - y down from their thrones, and up -



lift - ed the hum-ble of heart. You have filled the hun - gry with



won-drous things, and left the wealth-y no part.



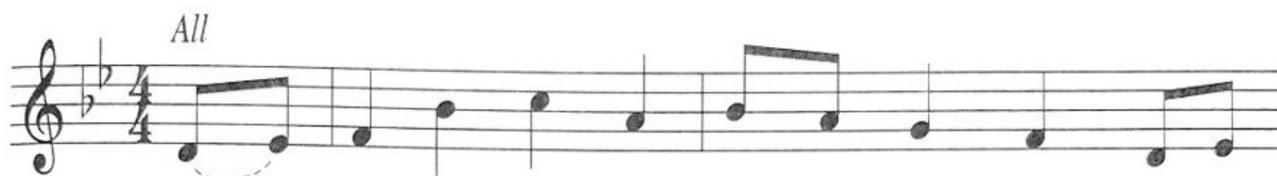
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,



strong is your jus - tice, strong your love, as you prom - ised to



Sar - ah and A - bra - ham, kind - ness for - ev - er - more.



3. My soul pro - claims your great - ness, O God, and my



spir - it re - joic - es in you. You have looked with love on your



ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.

Announcements

Litany and Prayers

Holden Evening Prayer pp. 10-11

All
[A] *repeat continuously* [B]

Hmm. God of mer-cy, hold us in love.

[A] *Leader or Assistant* [B]

1. In peace, in peace, we pray to you:

All
[A] *repeat continuously* [B]

Hmm. God of mer-cy, hold us in love.

[A] *Leader or Assistant* [B]

2. For peace and sal - va - tion, we pray to you:

All
 [A] *repeat continuously* [B]

Hmm. God of mer-cy, hold us in love.

[A]
Leader or Assistant [B]

3. For peace be-tween na-tions, for peace be-tween peo-ples:

All
 [A] *repeat continuously* [B]

Hmm. God of mer-cy, hold us in love.

[A]
Leader or Assistant [B]

4. For us, who are gath-ered to wor-ship and praise you:

All
 [A] *repeat continuously* [B]

Hmm. God of mer-cy, hold us in love.

[A] *Leader or Assistant* [B]

5. For all of your ser-vants who live out your gos - pel:

All
 [A] *repeat continuously* [B]

Hmm. God of mer-cy, hold us in love.

[A] *Leader or Assistant* [B]

6. For all those who gov - ern, that jus - tice might guide them:

All
 [A] *repeat continuously* [B]

Hmm. God of mer-cy, hold us in love.

[A]
Leader or Assistant [B]

7. For all those who la - bor in ser-vice to oth - ers:

All
 [A] *repeat continuously* [B]

Hmm. God of mer-cy, hold us in love.

[A]
Leader or Assistant [B]

8. Grant weath-er that nour - ish - es all of cre - a - tion:

All
 [A] *repeat continuously* [B]

Hmm. God of mer-cy, hold us in love.

[A]
 Leader or Assistant [B]

9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from dan - ger:

All
 [A] *repeat continuously* [B]

Hmm. God of mer-cy, hold us in love.

[A]
 Leader or Assistant [B]

10. For all the be - lov - ed who rest in your mer - cy:

All
 [A] *repeat continuously* [B]

Hmm. God of mer-cy, hold us in love.

[A]
Leader or Assistant

Help us, com-fort us, all of our days:

All

Keep us, hold us, gra - cious 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 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.

The musical score is written on five staves. The first staff is for the 'Leader or Assistant' and the second through fourth staves are for 'All'. The music is in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: 'Let us bless our God: Praise and thanks to you. May God, Cre - a - tor, bless us and keep us, may Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the Spir - it of Love be our guide and path for all of our days. A - men.' The word 'Amen' is written with a long note and a fermata.

Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition.

Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

MUSIC LICENSES AND PERMISSIONS

Liturgy and other music managed by GIA Publications are reprinted and streamed through OneLicense: A-731180. Music managed by CCLI are reprinted and streamed through CCLI Licenses 11467796

Pastor

Karl Hester

pastormessiahnh@gmail.com

Music Director

Jon Abrams

musicdirectormessiahnh@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant

Joanne Theil

messiahnh@comcast.net

www.messiahnh.org

www.facebook.com/messiahnh

physical address:

303 Route 101
Amherst, NH 03031

mailing address:

PO Box 488
Amherst, NH 03031-0488-1737