

MLC CHORALE, MÄNNERCHOR, & WOMEN'S CHOIR

LENT VESPERS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2017 AT 7:30 PM
CHAPEL OF THE CHRIST



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About the service

Evening Prayer (Vespers), along with Morning Praise (Matins) and Prayer at the Close of Day (Compline), belong to a set of seven daily services that were born in the monasteries and cathedrals of the fourth and fifth centuries. These daily services, modeled in part after the services of praise and prayer used in the Old Testament synagogues, afforded believers in the ecclesiastical communities an opportunity for devotion and meditation.

A regular part of worship in the Old Testament temple, *incense* has been understood for centuries as a symbol of the prayers of believers: as the smoke of the incense rises heavenward, so our prayers rise before God.

*Please turn off cell phones and other electronic devices before the service.
The United States copyright law prohibits audio and/or video recording of this service by individuals.
Audio CDs of this service are available by contacting the Music Division Office.*

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Order of Service

Evening Prayer, *Christian Worship*

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Please stand at the ringing of a single bell. Face the entrance of the Chapel and follow the processional cross as it is brought to the altar platform.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

The liturgy begins on page 54 of Christian Worship.

LET MY PRAYER RISE BEFORE YOU (Psalm 141)

PRAYER

M: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation

C: **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

M: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,

C: **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

M: Merciful Lord God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, in your immeasurable love, you sent your only Son to suffer and die for the sins of all people. During these days of Lent, turn our hearts to our Savior's suffering and dying. Help us see the weaknesses and failings of our own hearts. Help us see in the suffering Savior the love and compassion you have for us. Remove all doubts and despair with the comfort of your forgiveness, and strengthen us in saving faith.

C: **Amen.**

PSALM 6 - *Christian Worship* p. 66

LESSONS

Genesis 22:1-18

John 1:29-37

CANTATA: A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

Music by David von Kampen (b. 1986)
Texts from Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676),
Genesis 22, Isaiah 53
Tune: AN WASSERFLÜSSEN BABYLON
Wolfgang Dachstein (1487-1553)

- 1. Opening**
- 2. A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth**

A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth,
The guilt of sinners bearing
And, laden with the sins of earth,
None else the burden sharing:
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint,
To slaughter led without complaint,
That spotless life to offer,
He bears the stripes, the wound, the lies,
The mockery, and yet replies,
"All this I gladly suffer."

3. God Will Provide Himself a Lamb

And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said,

“My father,” and he said,

“Here am I, my son.”

And he said,

“Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”

“My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering.”

So they went both of them together.

4. This Lamb Is Christ

This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend,

The Lamb of God, our Savior,

Whom God the Father chose to send

To gain for us His favor.

“Go forth, My Son,” the Father said,

“And free My children from their dread

Of guilt and condemnation.”

The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,

But by Your passion they will share

The fruit of Your salvation.

5. He Was Despised and Rejected

Who has believed what he has heard from us?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

For he grew up before him like a young plant,

And like a root out of dry ground;

He had no form or majesty that we should look at him,

And no beauty that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by men;

A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;

And as one from whom men hide their faces.

He was despised and we esteemed him not.

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;

Yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions;

He was crushed for our iniquities;

Upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

And with his wounds we are healed.

6. O Wondrous Love

O wondrous Love, what have You done!
The Father offers up His Son, desiring our salvation.
O Love, how strong You are to save!
You lay the One into the grave, who built the earth's foundation.

7. Chorale

PLEASE STAND

The assembly is invited to join in singing:

Lord, when Your glo - ry I shall see And taste Your king - dom's
plea - sure, Your blood my roy - al robe shall be, My
joy be - yond all — mea - sure! When I ap - pear be -
fore Your throne, your righ - teous - ness shall be my crown; With these I need not
hide me. And there, in gar - ments rich - ly wrought, As your own
bride shall we — be brought To stand in joy be - side — You.

MESSAGE 1 Peter 1:18-19

OFFERING

The liturgy continues on page 59.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER FOR PEACE

SONG OF SIMEON

BLESSING

HYMN: What Grace Is This!

Christian Worship Supplement 715

arr. Larry Visser (b. 1962)
Tune by GA Hennig (b. 1966)
Text by Laurie F. Gauger (b. 1965)

Stanzas 1, 2, 6 – Congregation

Stanzas 3, 4, 5 – *Choir*

- 1. What grace is this! My Lord and King
Has set his face to suffering.
My God eternal dies to bring
Eternal life to me.**

- 2. What grace is this - That very God
Would stoop to lift a cross of wood
And walk a road of rock and blood,
A sinner's road, for me.**

- 3. What grace is this! Though Lord of all,
He yields to Pontius Pilate's law
And lets the Roman hammers draw
A rush of blood for me.*

- 4. What grace is this! Rude agonies!
With common thieves he hangs and bleeds.
The sinless Son bears each misdeed.
He pays for all, for me.*

5. *What grace is this! Once wrapped in cloths
And gently laid in manger trough,
He's taken, dead, from wretched cross
And wrapped again for me.*

6. **What grace is this? How can it be?
He wears this raw humility
To lift me to eternity.
Such grace - sweet grace - for me.**

† † †

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Presiding Minister: Pastor John Boeder

Meditation:
Pastor Jeff Schone

Choirs:
Chorale: Adrian Smith, conductor
Männerchor: Craig Hirschmann, conductor
Women's Choir: Grace Hennig, conductor

Organist: Craig Hirschmann

Tenor Soloist: Jon Hermanson

MLC Strings:
Violin - Max Kerr, Michael Wilde, Jacob Martens,
Monica Rehberger, Karissa Nolte, Emma Schibbelhut
Viola - Josie Avery, Sarah Schulte
Cello - Hope Loersch, Karl Christie
Bass - Lydia Wilde

Processional Cross: Isaac Hayes

Torch Bearers: Tony Pflughoeft, Jacob Ungemach

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