



**MIDWEEK DEVOTION – PSALM 37**

April 14, 2021

✠ EVENING PRAYER ✠

**SERVICE OF LIGHT**

*Kneel or Stand*

**EASTER VERSICLES**

**L** Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

**C** Alleluia, alleluia, alle - lu - ia.

**L** We are illumined by the brightness of His ris - ing.

**C** Alleluia, alleluia, alle - lu - ia.

**L** Death has no more dominion o - ver us.

**C** Alleluia, alleluia, alle - lu - ia.

**PHOS HILARON**

**L** Joy - ous light of glo - ry:

**C** of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,

bles - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the

set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.

We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:

You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -

ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:

the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

## THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

**L** Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse,  
who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of  
fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;  
may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;  
for You are mer - ci - ful, and You love Your whole cre - a - tion  
and we, Your creatures, glo - ri - fy You, Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it.

**C** A - men.

The musical score consists of seven staves of music in a single system. The first six staves correspond to the lyrics, and the seventh staff is for the 'Amen' response. The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics placed below the notes.

*Sit*

## PSALMODY

### PSALM 141

*Psalm 141:1-4, 8*

**C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,  
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

**I** O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice  
when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,  
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

The musical score for Psalm 141 consists of five staves of music. The first two staves correspond to the first line of lyrics, the next two staves to the second line, and the fifth staff to the third line. The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (D major) and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics placed below the notes.



**II** Set a watch be-fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.



**I** Let not my heart in-cline to an-y e-vil thing;



let me not be oc-cu-pied in wick-ed-ness with e-vil-do-ers.



**II** But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref-uge.



Strip me not of my life. **C** Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and



to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in



the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men.



Let my prayer rise be-fore You as in-cense,



the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac-ri-fice.

**P** Let us pray.

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

**C** Amen.

MEDITATION PSALM

Psalm 37; antiphon: vv. 39, 40

The pastor and congregation chant responsively. The antiphon is chanted by the pastor before and after the psalm.



(Antiphon) The salvation of the righteous is | from the LORD;\*  
He is their stronghold in the time of | trouble.  
The LORD helps them and de- | livers them;\*  
He delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take ref- | uge in Him.

- 1 Fret not yourself because of evil- | doers;\*  
be not envious of wrong- | doers!
- 2 For they will soon fade | like the grass\*  
and wither like the | green herb.
- 3 **Trust in the LORD, | and do good;\*  
dwell in the land and befriend | faithfulness.**
- 4 **Delight yourself | in the LORD,\*  
and He will give you the desires | of your heart.**
- 5 Commit your way | to the LORD;\*  
trust in Him, and | He will act.
- 6 He will bring forth your righteousness | as the light,\*  
and your justice as the | noonday.
- 7 **Be still before the LORD and wait patiently | for Him;\*  
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil de- | vices!**
- 8 **Refrain from anger, and for- | sake wrath!\*  
Fret not yourself; it tends only to | evil.**
- 9 For the evildoers shall be | cut off,\*  
but those who wait for the LORD shall inher- | it the land.
- 10 In just a little while, the wicked will | be no more;\*  
though you look carefully at his place, he will | not be there.
- 11 **But the meek shall inher- | it the land\*  
and delight themselves in a- | bundant peace.**
- 12 **The wicked plots against the | righteous\*  
and gnashes his | teeth at him,**
- 13 but the Lord laughs at the | wicked,\*  
for He sees that his day is | coming.
- 14 The wicked draw the sword and | bend their bows\*  
to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those whose way is | upright;
- 15 **their sword shall enter | their own heart,\*  
and their bows shall be | broken.**
- 16 **Better is the little that the | righteous has\*  
than the abundance of many | wicked.**
- 17 For the arms of the wicked shall be | broken,\*  
but the LORD upholds the | righteous.
- 18 The LORD knows the days of the | blameless,\*  
and their heritage will remain for- | ever;
- 19 **they are not put to shame in | evil times;\*  
in the days of famine they have a- | bundance.**
- 20 **But the wicked will perish; the enemies of the LORD are like the glory of the | pastures;\*  
they vanish—like smoke they van- | ish away.**

- 21 The wicked borrows but does | not pay back,\*  
but the righteous is gener- | ous and gives;
- 22 for those blessed by the LORD shall inher- | it the land,\*  
but those cursed by Him shall | be cut off.
- 23 **The steps of a man are established | by the LORD,\*  
and He delights | in his way;**
- 24 **though he fall, he shall not be cast | headlong,\*  
for the LORD up- | holds his hand.**
- 25 I have been young, and | now am old,\*  
yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children beg- | ging for bread.
- 26 He is ever lending | generously,\*  
and his children become a | blessing.
- 27 **Turn away from evil | and do good;\*  
so shall you dwell for- | ever.**
- 28 **For the LORD loves justice; He will not forsake His saints. They are preserved for- | ever,\*  
but the children of the wicked shall | be cut off.**
- 29 The righteous shall inher- | it the land\*  
and dwell upon it for- | ever.
- 30 The mouth of the righteous utters | wisdom,\*  
and his tongue speaks | justice.
- 31 **The law of his God is | in his heart;\*  
his steps | do not slip.**
- 32 **The wicked watches for the | righteous\*  
and seeks to put | him to death.**
- 33 The LORD will not abandon him | to his power\*  
or let him be condemned when he is | brought to trial.
- 34 Wait for the LORD and keep His way, and He will exalt you to inher- | it the land,\*  
you will look on when the wicked | are cut off.
- 35 **I have seen a wicked, | ruthless man,\*  
spreading himself like a green | laurel tree.**
- 36 **But he passed away, and behold, he | was no more;\*  
though I sought him, he could | not be found.**
- 37 Mark the blameless and behold the | upright,\*  
for there is a future for the | man of peace.
- 38 But transgressors shall be altogether | destroyed;\*  
the future of the wicked shall | be cut off.
- 39 **The salvation of the righteous is | from the LORD;\*  
He is their stronghold in the time of | trouble.**
- 40 **The LORD helps them and de- | livers them;\*  
He delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take ref- | uge in Him.**
- Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

*The antiphon is repeated.*



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,  
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,  
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:  
 Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
 Your hands swift to wel - come, Your arms to em - brace:  
 Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,  
 Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,  
 Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,  
 Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
 Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
 Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
 Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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## READINGS

### FIRST READING

*1 Peter 5:6–11*

**P** A reading from First Peter, chapter five.

<sup>6</sup>Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, <sup>7</sup>casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. <sup>10</sup>And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup>To Him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Silence for reflection.*

### SECOND READING

*Matthew 13:24–30 (NKJV)*

**P** A reading from the Gospel of Saint Matthew, chapter thirteen.

<sup>24</sup>Another parable He put forth to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup>but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. <sup>26</sup>But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. <sup>27</sup>So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ <sup>28</sup>He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us to go and gather them up?’ <sup>29</sup>But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.””

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Silence for reflection.*

- P** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.
- C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Hebrews 1: 1-2a

SERMON

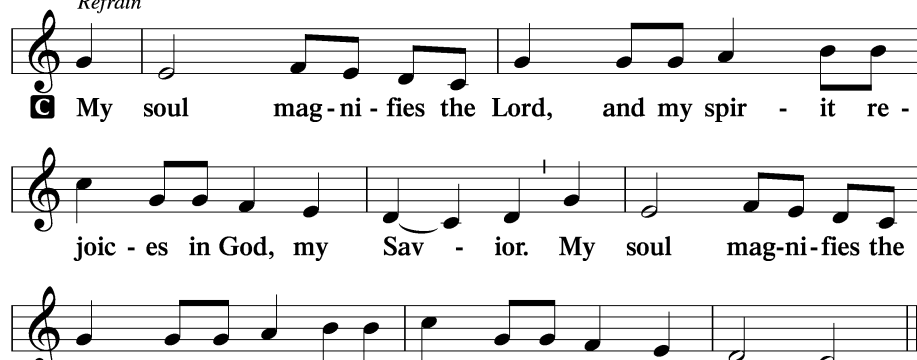
CANTICLE

Stand

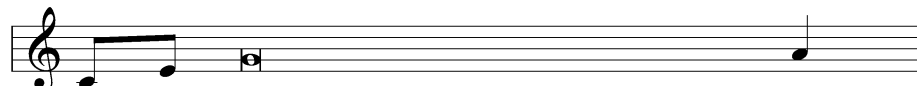
MAGNIFICAT: Song of Mary

Luke 1:46-55

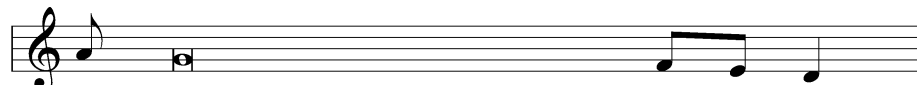
*Refrain*



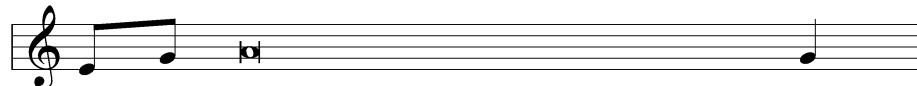
**C** My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -  
 joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag-ni-fies the  
 Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.



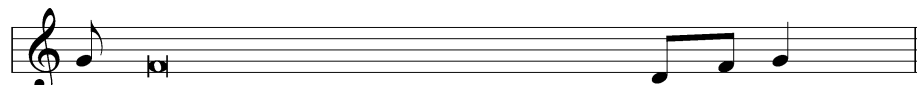
1 For \_\_\_\_\_ He has re - garded  
 2 For the Mighty One has done great things to . . . . . me,  
 3 He has shown strength with His . . . . . arm;  
 4 He has filled the hungry with good . . . . . things,  
 5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the . . . . . Son



1 the lowliness of . . . . . His hand-maiden.  
 2 and holy . . . . . is His name;  
 3 He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
 4 and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.  
 5 and to the . . . . . Ho - ly Spirit;



1 For be - hold, from this . . . . . day  
 2 and His mercy is on those who . . . . . fear Him  
 3 He has cast down the mighty from their . . . . . thrones  
 4 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy  
 5 as it was in the be - ginning,



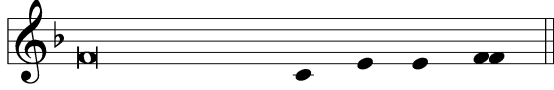
1 all generations will . . . . . call me blessèd.  
 2 from generation to . . . . . gen - er - ation. *Refrain*  
 3 and has exalt - ed the lowly.  
 4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.  
 5 is now, and will be forever. . . . . A - men. *Refrain*

# PRAYER

*Kneel or Remain Standing*

## LITANY

*The congregation begins the response as the pastor concludes each petition, so that the word "Lord" is sung together.*



**L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For Matthew, our Synod President, for Michael, our District President, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For Joseph, our nation's President, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

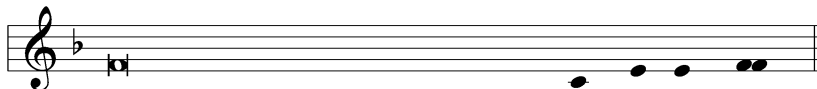
**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For . . . [additional bids for prayer may be included] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.



**L** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:



**C** Al - le - lu - ia.



**L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

*Silence for individual prayer may follow.*

**L** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

**C** To You, O Lord.

### COLLECT FOR PEACE

**P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** A - men.

### LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 957

**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

Our Fa - ther who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name,  
 Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as  
 it is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly  
 bread; and for - give us our tres - pass - es as we for - give  
 those who tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in -  
 to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.  
 For Thine is the king - dom and the pow'r and the glo -  
 ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

*Stand*

**BENEDICAMUS**

[Psalm 103:1]

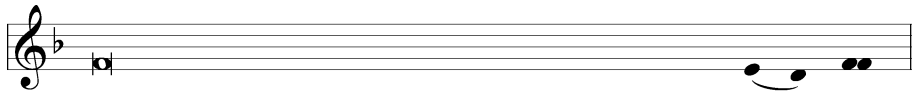


**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

**BENEDICTION**



**P** The almighty and merciful Lord,  
the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve you.



**C** A - men.

**† SOLI DEO GLORIA †**  
(TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)