

An Evening Vespers for Ordinary Time

Ordinary Time emphasizes our call to live out the Gospel day by day, one day at a time. We are challenged to find the miraculous in the mundane, and asked to take notice of how God shows up through our everyday lives: in our families, at work, with our neighbors, in our cities, and through creation.

♪ Light and Peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

♪ **Thanks be to God.**

Stay with us, Lord, for it is almost evening, and the daylight is nearly gone. Yet the darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light, to you, are both alike.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us with the brightness of the vesper light, and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

♪ *Taizé hymn* ♪

God of all, we thank you for the opportunities you offer us every day to open ourselves to your Spirit, to delight in you, and to serve you in newness of life.

We confess that in our daily lives we fail to love you with our whole hearts. We do not love our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive us, help us to be more forgiving of others, and inspire in us a sense of fellowship among all the living things with whom we share this earth.

Assurance of Pardon: God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us by the measure of our failings. As vast as the distance from one end of creation to another, God's love for us is even greater. As far as east is from west, from greater than this distance does God remove our sin from us.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Reading

...a moment of silence...

Scripture Reading

...a moment of silence...

Inspirational Reading

Reflections

Canticle of Hildegard of Bingen

♪ Fire of the Spirit, life of the lives of creatures,
spiral of sanctity, bond of all natures,
glow of charity, light of clarity,
taste of sweetness to sinners –

♪ **Be with us and hear us.**

♪ Composer of all things, light of all the risen,
key of salvation, release from the dark prison,
hope of all unions, scope of all chastities,
joy in glory, strong honor –

♪ **Be with us and hear us.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Dear Christ, our friend and our guide, our pioneer through the shadow of death, who passed through darkness to make it light, who taught us to pray for our enemies, be our companion that we may fear no evil, and bring us to life and eternal glory....

We pray tonight for the hungry and the overfed,

For the mourners and the mockers,

For the victims and the oppressors,

For the peacemakers and the warmongers,

For the silenced and the mass media,

For the unemployed and the overworked,

For the troubled and the carefree,

For the homeless and the sheltered,

For the vibrant and the dying....

Lord, have mercy.

We pray also for the joys, sorrows, and anxieties that weigh upon our own hearts this evening:

[offer personal prayer requests aloud or silently]

May God kindle in us the fire of love to bring us alive and give warmth to the world.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Be our light in the darkness, Lord Christ. Keep watch with those who work, or wait, or weep this evening, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous, and all for your love's sake.

Amen.