



Officiant      Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People        **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant      If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **Phos hilaron**

**O gracious light,  
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,  
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!  
Now as we come to the setting of the sun,  
and our eyes behold the vesper light,  
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,  
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,  
and to be glorified through all the worlds.**

**The Reading:** Marking the Times, and Winter, Ecclesiasticus 43:1-22

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.

The pride of the higher realms is the clear vault of the sky,  
as glorious to behold as the sight of the heavens.  
The sun, when it appears, proclaims as it rises  
what a marvelous instrument it is, the work of the Most High.  
At noon it parches the land,  
and who can withstand its burning heat?  
A man tending a furnace works in burning heat,  
but three times as hot is the sun scorching the mountains;  
when it breathes out fiery vapors  
and when it shines forth its rays, it blinds the eyes.  
Great is the Lord who made it;  
at his orders it hurries on its course.  
It is the moon that marks the changing seasons,  
governing the times, an everlasting sign.  
From the moon comes the sign for festal days,  
a light that wanes when it completes its course.  
The new moon, as its name suggests, renews itself;  
how marvelous it is in this change,  
a beacon to the hosts on high  
shining in the vault of the heavens!

The glory of the stars is the beauty of heaven,  
a glittering array in the heights of the Lord.  
On the orders of the Holy One they stand in their appointed places;  
they never relax in their watches.  
Look at the rainbow and praise him who made it;  
it is exceedingly beautiful in its brightness.  
It encircles the sky with its glorious arc;  
the hands of the Most High have stretched it out.  
By his command he sends the driving snow  
and speeds the lightnings of his judgment.  
Therefore the storehouses are opened,  
and the clouds fly out like birds.  
In his majesty he gives the clouds their strength,  
and the hailstones are broken in pieces.  
The voice of his thunder causes the earth to tremble;  
when he appears, the mountains shake.  
At his will the south wind blows,  
so do the storm from the north and the whirlwind.  
He scatters the snow like birds flying down,  
and its descent is like locusts alighting.  
The eye is dazzled by the beauty of its whiteness,  
and the mind is amazed as it falls.  
He pours frost over the earth like salt,  
and icicles form like pointed thorns.  
The cold north wind blows,  
and ice freezes on the water;  
it settles on every pool of water,  
and the water puts it on like a breastplate.  
He consumes the mountains and burns up the wilderness  
and withers the tender grass like fire.  
A mist quickly heals all things;  
the falling dew gives refreshment from the heat.

Reader        The Word of the Lord.

**People        Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 148

- 1 Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights.
- 2 Praise him, all you angels of his; praise him, all his host.
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.
- 4 Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.
- 5 Let them praise the Name of the LORD;  
for he commanded, and they were created.
- 6 He made them stand fast for ever and ever;  
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.
- 7 Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps;
- 8 Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing his will;
- 9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and wingèd birds;
- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;
- 12 Young men and maidens, old and young together.
- 13 Let them praise the Name of the LORD,  
for his Name only is exalted, his splendor is over earth and heaven.
- 14 He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah!

Officiant     Let us pray. (*Silence*)

In your wisdom, O Lord our God, you have made all things, and have allotted to each of us the days of our life: Grant that we may live in your presence, be guided by your Holy Spirit, and offer all our works to your honor and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Te Deum

You are God: we praise you; You are the Lord; we acclaim you;

You are the eternal Father: All creation worships you.

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,

Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praise you.  
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.  
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.  
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you;  
    Father, of majesty unbounded,  
    your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,  
    and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.  
You, Christ, are the king of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.  
When you became man to set us free you did not shun the Virgin's womb.  
You overcame the sting of death  
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.  
We believe that you will come and be our judge.  
    Come then, Lord, and help your people,  
    bought with the price of your own blood,  
    and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.

Officiant      Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
    hallowed be thy name,  
    thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
    on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
    as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
    but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
    and the power, and the glory,  
    for ever and ever. Amen.

Officiant      Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be  
the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who  
is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with  
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

## The Blessing and Dismissal

Officiant      May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Officiant      Let us bless the Lord.

People        **Thanks be to God.**



*Service taken from The Book of Occasional Services and the Book of Common Prayer.*