

### Prayers before Any Office

Grant, O Lord, that what we say with our lips we may believe in our hearts and practice in our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Open, O Lord, my mouth to bless Thy holy Name; cleanse my heart from all vain, foolish, wandering thoughts; enlighten my understanding; enkindle my affections that I may say this office with attention and devotion and so may be meet to be heard before the presence of Thy divine majesty; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Prayers after Any Office

Guide us, O Lord, in all our doings with Thy most gracious favor, and further us with Thy continual help that in all our work begun, continued, and ended in Thee we may glorify Thy holy Name and finally by Thy mercy obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

To Thee, O Lord, I commend the service which I, an unworthy sinner, have offered up unto Thee, God, be merciful to me, a sinner, and according to the fulness of Thy love and wisdom fulfill my petitions; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Collect for Rorate coeli

Stir up, O Lord, we beseech Thee, Thy power, and come and help us with Thy great might, that by Thy grace whatsoever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished through Thy mercy and satisfaction; Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

### Collect for Advent

Stir up, we beseech Thee, Thy power, O Lord, and come, that by Thy protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Thy mighty deliverance; Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

### Collect for St. Thorlak Thorhallson of Iceland

Merciful God, graciously look upon Thy Church here on Earth. Strengthen Thy congregation and give Thy Church comfort and peace. Teach the leaders of Thy Church to unite against all obstacles to Thy Word. Guide those who are tempted. Comfort those who suffer any want of body or soul. Prepare Thy congregation to make ready to sincerely and faithfully celebrate the holy feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

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Midweek Advent Vespers  
December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

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*“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways.” St. Luke 1:76*

## The Office of Vespers

**The Ringing of the Bell**

**Silent Prayer**

**The Hymn**

*“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”*

TLH 59

*Stand*

**The Opening Versicles**

TLH p. 41

**The Psalmody**

Psalm 145

Psalter, p. 202

*Sit*

**The Lection**

Hebrews 12:15-29

St. Luke 1:57-80

**The Response**

*(After each reading)*

TLH p. 42

**The Responsory**

INSERT

**The Hymn** *“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”* TLH 73 (1<sup>st</sup> Tune)

**The Sermon** *To Give Light to Those Who Sit in Darkness*

**Recitation of the Catechism** Christian Questions with Their Answers

**The Office Hymn** *“O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee?”* TLH 58 (1<sup>st</sup> Tune)

*Stand*

**The Versicle**

TLH p. 43

**“O” Antiphon**

*O Emmanuel*

Below

**The Canticle**

*“The Magnificat”*

TLH p. 43

**“O” Antiphon**

*O Emmanuel*

Below

**The Litany**

INSERT

**The Salutation**

TLH p. 45

**The Collect for St. Thorlak Thorhallson**

Back Cover

**The Collect for the Rorate coeli**

Back Cover

**The Collect for Advent**

Back Cover

**Other Collects** *(if necessary)*

**The Collect for Peace**

TLH p. 45

**The Litany Collect**

INSERT

**The Benedicamus**

TLH p. 45

**The Benediction**

TLH p. 45

**Silent Prayer**

\*—*An Alms Basin is located next to the bulletins for any Offerings.*

*O Emmanuel*



O \_\_\_\_\_ Em - ma - nu - el, our King and Law - giv - er,



the Ex-pec-ta-tion of the Na - tions \_\_\_\_\_ and their Sav - ior: \_\_\_\_\_ Come, \_\_\_\_\_



and \_\_\_\_\_ save \_\_\_\_\_ us, O \_\_\_\_\_ Lord \_\_\_\_\_ our God.

## Hebrews 12:15-29

<sup>15</sup> Looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; <sup>16</sup> lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. <sup>17</sup> For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears. <sup>18</sup> For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, <sup>19</sup> and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. <sup>20</sup> (For they could not endure what was commanded: “And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow.” <sup>21</sup> And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.”) <sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, <sup>23</sup> to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, <sup>24</sup> to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. <sup>25</sup> See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, <sup>26</sup> whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.” <sup>27</sup> Now this, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. <sup>28</sup> Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. <sup>29</sup> For our God is a consuming fire.

## St. Luke 1:57-80

<sup>57</sup> Now Elizabeth’s full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son.

<sup>58</sup> When her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her. <sup>59</sup> So it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias. <sup>60</sup> His mother answered and said, “No; he shall be called John.” <sup>61</sup> But they said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name.” <sup>62</sup> So they made signs to his father—what he would have him called. <sup>63</sup> And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, “His name is John.” So they all marveled. <sup>64</sup> Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God. <sup>65</sup> Then fear came on all who dwelt around them; and all these sayings were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea. <sup>66</sup> And all those who heard them kept them in their hearts, saying, “What kind of child will this be?” And the hand of the Lord was with him. <sup>67</sup> Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: <sup>68</sup> “Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people, <sup>69</sup> and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, <sup>70</sup> as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began, <sup>71</sup> that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, <sup>72</sup> to perform the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant, <sup>73</sup> the oath which He swore to our father Abraham: <sup>74</sup> To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, <sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life. <sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, <sup>77</sup> to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins, <sup>78</sup> through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; <sup>79</sup> To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” <sup>80</sup> So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.

## Psalm 145



P: YOUR **KING**- - || dom is an ever- | last- | ing | king- | dom, \*

**C:** And Your dominion endures throughout all | gen- | er- | a- -  
| tions.

P: || I will extol You, | my | God, | O | King; \*

**C:** And I will bless Your name forev- | er | and | **ev**- - | er.

P: || Every day | I | will | bless | You, \*

**C:** And I will praise Your name forev- | er | and | **ev**- - | er.

P: || Great is the Lord, and great- | ly | to | be | praised; \*

**C:** And His greatness is | un- | search- | a- - | ble.

P: || One generation shall praise Your works | to | an- | oth- | er, \*

**C:** And shall declare | Your | might- | y | acts.

P: || I will meditate on the glorious splendor of | Your | maj- | es- | ty, \*

**C:** And on | Your | won- | **drous** - | works.

P: || Men shall speak of the might of | Your | awe- | some | acts, \*

**C:** And I will de- | clare | Your | **great**- - | ness.

P: || They shall utter the memory of | Your | great | good- | ness, \*

**C:** And shall sing of | Your | right- | **eous**- - | ness.

P: || The Lord is gracious and full | of | com- | pas- | sion, \*

**C:** Slow to anger and | great | in | **mer**- - | cy.

P: || The Lord | is | good | to | all, \*

**C:** And His tender mercies are o- | ver | all | **His** - | works.

P: || All Your works shall | praise | You, | O | Lord, \*

**C:** And Your | saints | shall | **bless** - | You.

P: || They shall speak of the glory | of | Your | king- | dom, \*

**C:** And talk | of | Your | **pow**- - | er,

P: || To make known to the sons of men | His | might- | y | acts, \*

**C:** And the glorious majesty | of | His | **king**- - | dom.

P: || Your kingdom is an ever- | last- | ing | king- | dom, \*

**C:** And Your dominion endures throughout all | gen- | er- | a- -  
| tions.

P: || The Lord up- | holds | all | who | fall, \*

**C:** And raises up all | who | are | **bowed** - | down.

P: || The eyes of all look expec- | tant- | ly | to | You, \*

**C:** And You give them their food | in | due | **sea**- - | son.

P: || You | o- | pen | Your | hand \*

**C:** And satisfy the desire of ev- | er- y · | liv- | **ing** - | thing.

P: || The Lord is righteous | in | all | His | ways, \*

**C:** Gracious | in | all | **His** - | works.

P: || The Lord is near to all who | call | up- | on | Him, \*

**C:** To all who call up- | on | Him | **in** - | truth.

P: || He will fulfill the desire of | those | who | fear | Him; \*

**C:** He also will hear their | cry | and | **save** - | them.

P: || The Lord preserves | all | who | love | Him, \*

**C:** But all the wicked | He | will | **de**- - | stroy.

P: || My mouth shall speak the | praise | of | the | Lord, \*

**C:** And all flesh shall bless His holy name forev- | er | and |  
**ev**- - | er.

**ALL: GLO- RY** - || be to the Father, | and | to | the | Son: \*

And to | the | Ho- | **ly** - | Ghost;

**AS IT** - || was in the begin -*ning*, (+) is now, and | ev- | er | shall | be: \*

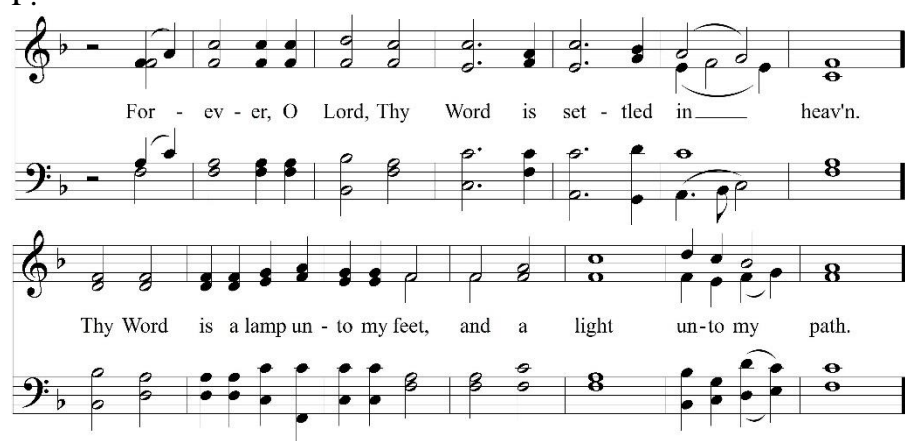
World with- | out | end. | **A**- - | men.

P: || Your kingdom is an ever- | last- | ing | king- | dom, \*

**C:** And Your dominion endures throughout all | gen- | er- | a- -  
| tions.

# The Responary

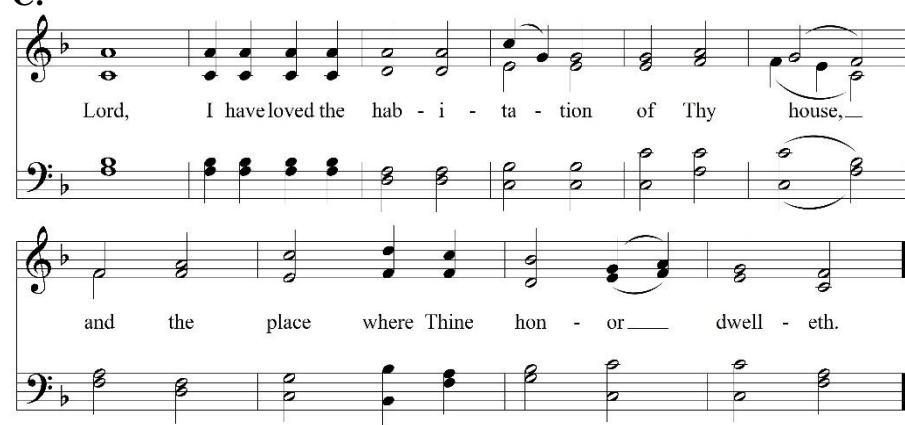
**P:**



For - ev - er, O Lord, Thy Word is set - tled in heav'n.

Thy Word is a lamp un - to my feet, and a light un-to my path.

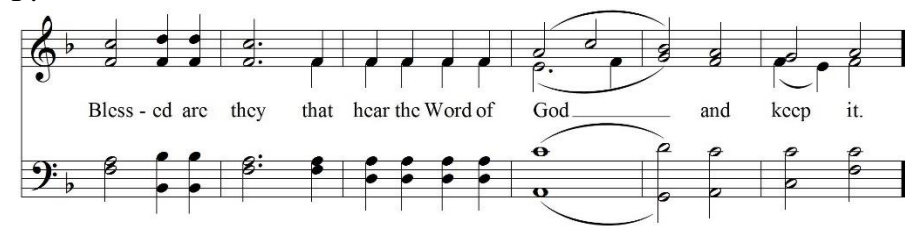
**C:**



Lord, I have loved the hab - i - ta - tion of Thy house, —

and the place where Thine hon - or dwell - eth.

**P:**

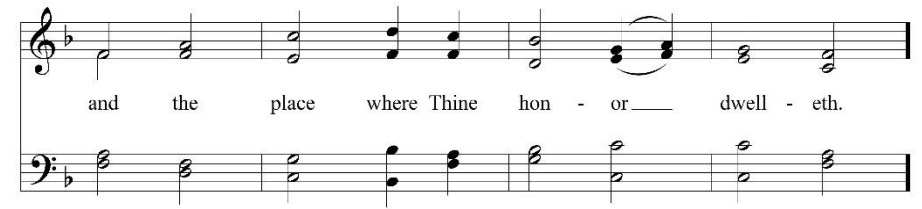


Bless - ed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it.

**C:**



Lord, I have loved the hab - i - ta - tion of Thy house, —



and the place where Thine hon - or dwell - eth.

**P:**

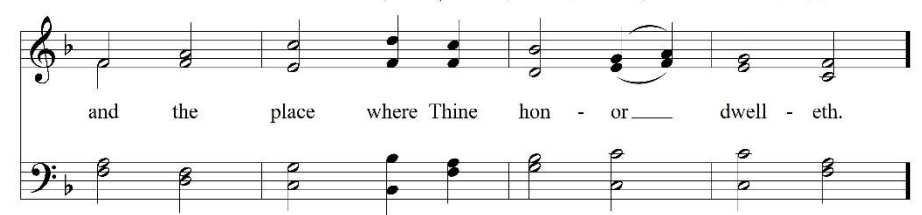


Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost.

**C:**



Lord, I have loved the hab - i - ta - tion of Thy house, —



and the place where Thine hon - or dwell - eth.

**TLH 59 “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”**

James Montgomery, 1821

1. Hail to the Lord’s Anointed,  
Great David’s greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
His reign on Earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
To set the captive free,  
To take away transgression  
And rule in equity.

2. He comes with succor speedy  
To those who suffer wrong;  
To help the poor and needy  
And bid the weak be strong;  
To give them songs for sighing,  
Their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying,  
Were precious in His sight.

3. He shall come down like showers  
Upon the fruitful earth,  
And joy and hope, like flowers,  
Spring in His path to birth.  
Before Him on the mountains,  
Shall peace, the herald, go  
And righteousness, in fountains,  
From hill to valley flow.

4. Arabia’s desert ranger  
To Him shall bow the knee,  
The Ethiopian stranger  
His glory come to see;  
With off’rings of devotion  
Ships from the isles shall meet  
To pour the wealth of ocean  
In tribute at His feet.

5. Kings shall bow down before Him,  
And gold and incense bring;  
All nations shall adore Him,  
His praise all peoples sing;  
To Him shall prayer unceasing  
And daily vows ascend,  
His Kingdom still increasing,  
A Kingdom without end.

6. O’er every foe victorious,  
He on His throne shall rest,  
From age to age more glorious,  
All blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never  
His covenant remove;

His Name shall stand forever,—  
That Name to us is Love. Amen.

**TLH 73 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” (Third Tune)**

Georg Weissel, 1642

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!  
Behold, the King of Glory waits;  
The King of kings is drawing near,  
The Savior of the world is here.  
Life and salvation He doth bring,  
Wherefore rejoice and gladly sing:  
We praise Thee, Father, now,  
Creator, wise art Thou!

2. A Helper just He comes to thee,  
His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness,  
His scepter, pity in distress,  
The end of all our woe He brings;  
Wherefore the Earth is glad and sings:  
We praise Thee, Savior, now,  
Mighty in deed art Thou!

3. O blest the land, the city blest,  
Where Christ the Ruler is confessed!  
O happy hearts and happy homes  
To whom this King in triumph comes!  
The cloudless Sun of joy He is,  
Who bringeth pure delight and bliss.  
We praise Thee, Spirit, now,  
Our Comforter art Thou!

4. Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
Make it a temple set apart  
From earthly use for Heaven’s employ,  
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.  
So shall your Sovereign enter in  
The new and nobler life begin.  
To Thee, O God, be praise  
For word and deed and grace!

5. Redeemer, come! I open wide  
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!  
Let me Thine inner presence feel,  
Thy grace and love in me reveal;  
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on  
Until our glorious goal is won.  
Eternal praise and fame  
We offer to Thy Name. Amen.

**TLH 58 “O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee?”**

**(First Tune)**

Paul Gerhardt, 1653

1. O Lord, how shall I meet Thee,  
How welcome Thee aright?  
Thy people long to greet Thee,  
My Hope, my heart's Delight!  
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy,  
Thy lamp within my breast  
To do in spirit lowly  
All that may please Thee best.

2. Thy Zion strews before Thee  
Green boughs and fairest palms,  
And I, too, will adore Thee  
With joyous songs and psalms.  
My heart shall bloom forever  
For Thee with praises new  
And from Thy Name shall never  
Withhold the honor due.

3. I lay in fetters, groaning,  
Thou com'st to set me free;  
I stood, my shame bemoaning,  
Thou com'st to honor me;  
A glory Thou dost give me,  
A treasure safe on high,  
That will not fail or leave me  
As earthly riches fly.

4. Love caused Thy incarnation,  
Love brought Thee down to me;  
Thy thirst for my salvation  
Procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling,  
That led Thee to embrace,  
In love all love excelling,  
Our lost and fallen race!

5. Rejoice, then, ye sad-hearted,  
Who sit in deepest gloom,  
Who mourn o'er joys departed  
And tremble at your doom.  
Despair not, He is near you,  
Yea, standing at the door,  
Who best can help and cheer you  
And bids you weep no more.

6. Ye need not toil nor languish  
Nor ponder day and night  
How in the midst of anguish  
Ye draw Him by your might.  
He comes, He comes all willing,

Moved by His love alone,  
Your woes and troubles stilling;  
For all to Him are known.

7. Sin's debt, that fearful burden,  
Let not your souls distress;  
Your guilt the Lord will pardon  
And cover by His grace.  
He comes, for men procuring  
The peace of sin forgiven,  
For all God's sons securing  
Their heritage in Heaven.

8. What though the foes by raging,  
Heed not their craft and spite;  
Your Lord, the battle waging,  
Will scatter all their might.  
He comes, a King most glorious,  
And all His earthly foes  
In vain His course victorious  
Endeavor to oppose.

9. He comes to judge the nations,  
A terror to His foes,  
A Light of consolations  
And blessèd Hope to those  
Who love the Lord's appearing.  
O glorious Sun, now come,  
Send forth Thy beams most cheering,  
And guide us safely home. Amen.