

Opening musical meditation

Officiant Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Officiant Almighty and merciful God, kindle within us the fire of love, that by its cleansing flame we may be purged of all that hinders our complete love for you, one another, and your world. Make us ready to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **People: Amen.**

O Gracious Light *Phos Hilaron*

**All: 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.**

Meditative music is offered to help us slow down and enter this sacred moment.

Officiant: O God, who by the preaching of your blessed servant and bishop [Ninian](#) caused the light of the Gospel to shine in the land of Britain: Grant, we pray, that having his life and labors in remembrance, we may show our thankfulness by following the example of his zeal and patience; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **People: Amen.**

Officiant God is in you.

People And also in you.

Officiant Let us pray.

All say together

**Light of the world, in grace and beauty,
Mirror of God's eternal face,
Transparent flame of love's free duty,
You bring salvation to the human race.
Now, as we see the lights of evening,
We raise our voice in hymns of praise;
Worthy are you of endless blessing,
Sun of our night, lamp of our days. (Adapted)**

Meditative music is offered as we prepare to receive the nourishment of the Word.

Reader: A reading from the gospel of Matthew.

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.' (28:16-20)

Reader: Here ends the reading.

People: Thanks be to God.

Holy Conversation on the Word

Officiant God is in you.

People And also in you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Prayer of Thanks

Officiant: O God, for your love for us, warm and brooding, which has brought us to birth and has opened our eyes. **People: We give you thanks.**

Officiant: For your love for us, wild and freeing, which has awakened us to the energy of creation: to the sap that flows, the blood that pulses, and the heart that sings. **People: We give you thanks.**

Officiant: For your love for us, compassionate and patient, which has carried us through our pain, wept beside us in our sin, and waited with us in our confusion. **People: We give you thanks.**

Officiant: For your love for us, strong and challenging, which has called us to risk for you, asked for the best in us, and shown us how to serve. **People: We give you thanks.**

Officiant: O God, we come to celebrate that your Holy Spirit is present deep within us, and at the heart of all life. Forgive us when we forget your gift of love. Awaken us to the love that Christ offers, and draw us into your presence. *—from Iona Abbey Worship Book, 141ff.*

All say together The Cantic: A Song of God's Love: (1 John 4:7-11)

Beloved, let us love one another, *
for love is of God.
Whoever does not love does not know God, *
for God is Love.
In this the love of God was revealed among us, *
that God sent his only Son into the world,
so that we might live through Jesus Christ.
In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us *
and sent his Son that sins might be forgiven.
Beloved, since God loved us so much, *
we ought also to love one another.
For if we love one another, God abides in us, *
and God's love will be perfected in us.

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. And grant us your salvation.

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. Let your people sing with joy.

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. For only in you can we live in safety.

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. Your saving health among all nations.

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. And sustain us by your Holy Spirit.

Meditative music is offered as we prepare to go into the world refreshed, renewed, and forgiven.

The Officiant continues

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *2 Corinthians 13:14*

People: Amen.