

Morning Prayer and Bible Study, Saturday, 30 June

Liturgist: Archbishop Urmas Vilma, Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church

We open with the sound of a gong or singing bowl

Psalm 18:

God my friend,
You give me strength.

God, my shield, my help,
You watch over me.

You bring me out into a broad place
Because you delight in me.

It is you who light my lamp.
You light up my darkness.

By you, God, I can leap over a wall.
For this I will extol you in the morning and in the evening, now and always. Amen.

We sing (1st and 3rd verses in German)

1. Schmü - cke dich, o lie - be See - le, laß die dü - kle Sün - den - höh - le, komm ans hel - le Licht ge -
 1. Deck, thy - self, my soul, with glad - ness, leave the gloom - y haunts of sad - ness. Come in - to the day - light's

gan - gen, fan - ge herr - lich an zu pran - gen! Denn der Herr voll Heil und Gna - den will dich jetzt zu
 splen - dor; there with joy thy prais - es ren - der un - to Christ, whose grace un - bound - ed hath this won - drous

Gas - te la - den; der den Him - mel kann ver - wal - ten, will jetzt Her - berg in dir hal - ten.
 ban - quet found - ed. High o'er all the heavens he reign - eth, yet to dwell with thee he deign - eth.

2. Nein, Vernunft, die muß hier weichen,
 kann dies Wunder nicht erreichen,
 daß dies Brot nie wird verzehret,
 ob es gleich viel Tausend nähret,
 und daß mit dem Saft der Reben
 uns wird Christi Blut gegeben.
 Gottes Geist nur kann uns leiten,
 dies Geheimnis recht zu deuten!

3. Jesu, meine Lebenssonne,
 Jesu, meine Freud und Wonne,
 Jesu, du mein ganz Beginnen,
 Lebensquell und Licht der Sinnen:
 hier fall ich zu deinen Füßen;
 laß mich würdiglich genießen
 diese deine Himmels Speise
 mir zum Heil und dir zum Preise.

4. Jesu, wahres Brot des Lebens,
 hilf, daß ich doch nicht vergebens
 oder mir vielleicht zum Schaden
 sei zu deinem Tisch geladen.
 Laß mich durch dies heilige Essen
 deine Liebe recht ermessen,
 daß ich auch, wie jetzt auf Erden,
 mög dein Gast im Himmel werden.

2. Those who crave a precious treasure
 neither cost nor pain will measure;
 but the priceless gifts of heaven
 God to us hath freely given.
 Though the wealth of earth were offered,
 naught would buy the gifts here offered:
 Christ's true body for thee riven,
 and his blood, for thee once given.

3. Sun, who all my life dost brighten;
 light, who dost my soul enlighten;
 joy, the best that any knoweth;
 fount, whence all my being floweth;
 at thy feet I cry, my Maker,
 let me be a fit partaker
 of this blessed food from heaven,
 for our good, thy glory, given.

4. Jesus, bread of life, I pray thee,
 let me gladly here obey thee;
 never to my hurt invited,
 be thy love with love required.
 From this banquet let me measure,
 Lord, how vast and deep its treasure;
 through the gifts thou here dost give me,
 as thy guest in heav'n receive me.

Let us pray,

We are grateful for the gift of each body gathered here this morning. We give you thanks for the gifts that you give, and the many ways in which we receive them. Today we thank you for our sense of smell. By the gift of frankincense the magi honoured your presence among us, and the woman paid homage to your loving sacrifice with an essential, fragrant oil. By the scent of flowers, bees and butterflies are moved to share life that produces good fruit. We lament the fumes, the pollution, and decay that diffuses from our over mining, consumption and production of toxic goods. Help our living be infused with the aroma of your goodness, so that our lives may be a fragrant offering, pleasing to you, and attractive to those we meet.

God, your world is filled with fragrance;
 Smells surround the things we do.
 Sweat from work and smoke in cooking
 Both are offerings to you.
 Oils of healing, scented flowers
 Carry with them love and care.

All the smells of potluck suppers
Bring the joy of life we share.

Bible reading and study

Ms Olga Navratilova, Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren

2 Corinthians 5: 14-21

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Group Discussions

Prayers

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

We thank you, God, for the night's rest, for the hours of sleep and dream.

Open our minds and hearts to all we meet today.

We are one with each other.

Show us the people to serve and the work we are to do.

We cannot live by ourselves.

God, be near us and lift us up.

Walk with us,

Step by step, hour by hour.

We pray to God, our light and salvation, in the words Jesus taught us, each in our own language.

Our Father in heaven...

We sing



I am the vine and you are the branch - es. Those who a - bide in me will bear much fruit.

Copyright © Tom Witt

Gracious God, we thank You, through Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, that You kept us safe from all evil and danger last night. Save us, we pray, today as well, from every evil and sin, so that all we do and the way that we live will please you. We put ourselves in your care, body and soul and all that we have. Let Your holy Angels be with us, so that the evil one will not gain power over us. Amen.

Benediction

Sending

May the God of creation, incarnation and redemption,
sharpen our senses

so that we may continue to discern God's loving presence,
freely receive

the blessings of life,
and freely share

the joy of God's reconciling love.

Thanks be to God!