

# EVENING PRAYER FOR LENT





## **The “I AM” Sayings**

John 6:25-40; 8:12-20; 10:7-18; 14:6-14; 15:1-11

This illumination from the text of the Saint John's Bible displays five of Jesus' I AM sayings in the Gospel of John. From left to right: I AM the Bread, I AM the Gate, I AM the Way, I AM the Light, I AM the True Vine. Each name adds to the attributes of Christ and is a living symbol of who Christ is.

At the base of the columns is the ineffable Hebrew name for the Lord God “YHWH” (I am who I am). This name is written without vowels, signifying that it cannot be spoken aloud.

**A framed reproduction print of this illumination is on display as you enter the worship space.**

Artist: Thomas Ingmire

### **References**

Sink, S. (2013). *The art of The Saint John's Bible: The complete reader's guide*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press.

*I Am Sayings*, Thomas Ingmire, ©2002 *The Saint John's Bible*, Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota. Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Catholic Edition, © 1993, 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



# I AM

*Illuminations of Christ for Lent*

## EVENING PRAYER FOR LENT

Grace of God Lutheran Church  
Oakdale, Minnesota

Tonight we continue our Lenten journey. Lent is a time to focus our thoughts on Jesus and his suffering and death for us. Our theme for Evening Prayer is based on Jesus' words recorded in the Gospel of John.

God revealed himself to Moses in the burning bush as "I AM." This is the name by which the Old Testament people knew God. Jesus identified himself with God when he said to the Jewish leaders, "Before Abraham was, I AM." Now we meet "I AM" face to face in Christ. Jesus' words "illuminate" the promises of Jesus for us. Tonight we will focus on Jesus' words: **"I AM the Bread of Life."** We will hear testimony tonight from an imaginary biblical witness to Jesus' words.

WELCOME

SERVICE OF LIGHT

**All**

*Refrain*



**P** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,  
**C** **the light no darkness can overcome.**

**P** Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,  
**C** **and the day is almost over.**

**All** (sing) **Christ be our light . . .**

- P** Let Your light scatter the darkness  
**C** and illumine your Church.
- P** Turn us again, O God of our salvation,  
**C** that the light of your face may shine on us.
- A** (sing) **Christ be our light . . .**

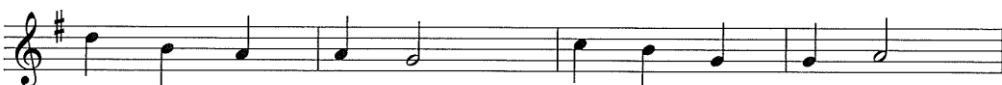
## EVENING HYMN



1. Now it is eve - ning: Lights of the cit - y  
 2. Now it is eve - ning: Lit - tle ones sleep - ing  
 3. Now it is eve - ning: Food on the ta - ble  
 4. Now it is eve - ning: Here in our meet - ing



- Bid us re - mem - ber Christ is our Light.  
 Bid us re - mem - ber Christ is our Peace.  
 Bids us re - mem - ber Christ is our Life.  
 May we re - mem - ber Christ is our Friend.



- Man - y are lone - ly, Who will be neigh - bor?  
 Some are ne - glect - ed, Who will be neigh - bor?  
 Man - y are hun - gry, Who will be neigh - bor?  
 Some may be stran - gers, Who will be neigh - bor?



- Where there is car - ing Christ is our Light.  
 Where there is car - ing Christ is our Peace.  
 Where there is shar - ing Christ is our Life.  
 Where there's a wel - come Christ is our Friend.

## PRAYER

- P** O gracious Light, pure brightness of the ever living Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the evening 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, your glory fills the whole world.

- A** **Amen**



PSALM 34 (cantor sings verses; **ALL SING REFRAIN**)

*Refrain – All*

Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord. Oh,

taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times.  
Praise shall always be on my lips;  
my soul shall glory in the Lord;  
for God has been so good to me. *Refrain*

Glorify the Lord with me.  
Together let us all praise God's name.  
I called the Lord, who answered me;  
from all my troubles I was set free. *Refrain*

Worship the Lord, all you people.  
You'll want for nothing if you ask.  
Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
in God we need put all our trust. *Refrain*

READING

**John 6:48-54**

<sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. <sup>50</sup> But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.” <sup>52</sup> Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” <sup>53</sup> Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup> Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

HYMN

1. **You are the way; to You alone**  
From sin and death we flee;  
And he who would the Father seek  
Your follower must be.
2. **You are the BREAD OF LIFE, O Lord,**  
Your Body feeds the soul.  
Fill hungry hearts so we receive  
Your life to make us whole.
3. **You are the way, through you alone**  
Can we the Father find;  
In you, O Christ, has God revealed  
His heart, his will his mind.



MONOLOGUE

“I heard Jesus say . . . I AM the Bread of Life”

## PRAYERS (Leader sings petitions; **ALL SING** refrain)

- ☐ Let us bring our prayers to Christ our Lord.



- ☐ That Christ be the Bread | for all who hunger | let us pray to the Lord  
That Christ be the Way | for all who struggle | let us pray to the Lord  
That Christ be the Light | for those in darkness | let us pray to the Lord  
That Christ be the Shepherd | for the sick and all who suffer | let us pray to the Lord  
That Christ be the Door | for those in bondage and fear | let us pray to the Lord  
That Christ be the Vine | for all the lonely | let us pray to the Lord  
That Christ be the Life | for the dying and all who grieve | let us pray to the Lord

## TANZANIA OFFERING

*(loose change collected in our offering will go towards high school scholarships for students in Tanzania sponsored by Grace of God and other projects in Tanzania. Those who have loose change or other gifts may come forward and empty their "alms bowls" into the glass bowl.)*

## LORD'S PRAYER



## EVENING PRAYER

**P** Let us pray:

**A** **O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.**

## BLESSING

## CLOSING SONG

### Christ Be Beside Me (St. Patrick's Prayer)

Stanza 1 - cantor

Stanza 2 - ALL

Repeat stanza 1 - ALL



1. Christ be be - side me, Christ be be - fore me, Christ be be -  
2. Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all a -



1. hind me, King of my heart. Christ be with - in me,  
2. round me, shield in the strife. Christ in my sleep - ing,



1. Christ be be - low me, Christ be a - bove me, nev - er to part.  
2. Christ in my sit - ting, Christ in my ris - ing, light of my life.

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THANK YOU to BRUCE GILMAN for presenting the monologue tonight

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Jon Marxhausen, Pastor

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# THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE

AT

 GRACE OF GOD  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

SPECIAL EVENT  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13  
at 7:00 pm

From Inspiration to Illumination  
an Introduction to The Saint John's Bible



DAY RETREAT  
THURSDAY, MARCH 14

from 9 am - 3:45 pm

Experience the Word come to life!  
a retreat day with The Saint John's Bible  
**REGISTER at [graceofgodlutheran.com](http://graceofgodlutheran.com)**

## PILGRIMAGE OF THE BOOK

A full-size reproduction of Gospels and Acts  
(NRSV TRANSLATION) from The Saint John's  
Bible will be on loan at Grace of God  
during the month of March

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