


EXPANSIVE EVENSONG

Thomas Merton | 10 December 2025

Tonight's service features music from the Taizé Community, a monastic community in Taizé, France, founded in the 1940s by the Swiss priest Roger Louis Schütz-Marsauche. A typical Taizé service includes sung prayers and chants, meditation, intentional silence, and readings, and it generally does not include preaching or a reflection as tonight's service does. Thousands of pilgrims continue to visit the community each year to experience its distinctive way of prayer.

The People's responses are in bold

Song *Stay with Us*



Stay with us, O Lord Je - sus Christ, night will soon fall. Then
stay with us, O Lord Je - sus Christ, light in our dark - ness.

Welcome and Announcements

The People stand

Opening Rite

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket, but on a lamp-stand where it gives light for everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellow people, so that they may see the deed you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Song *The Lord is My Light*

The Lord is my light, my light and sal - va - tion: in
God I trust, in God I trust. The

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: 'The Lord is my light, my light and sal - va - tion: in'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line: 'God I trust, in God I trust. The'. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with quarter and eighth notes.

The People sit

The Lessons

Psalm 62 is read responsively

For God alone my soul in silence waits; from him comes my salvation.

He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall not be greatly shaken.

How long will you assail me to crush me, all of you together,
as if you were a leaning fence, a toppling wall?

They seek only to bring me down from my place of honor; lies are their chief delight.

They bless with their lips, but in their hearts they curse.

For God alone my soul in silence waits; truly, my hope is in him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.

In God is my safety and my honor; God is my strong rock and my refuge.

Put your trust in him always, O people,
pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.

Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath, even those of low estate cannot be trusted.

On the scales they are lighter than a breath, all of them together.

**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, that power belongs to God.

Steadfast love is yours, O Lord, for you repay everyone according to his deeds.

Ps. 62 (NRSV)

A Reading from Isaiah.

It shall be said, “Build up, build up, prepare the way, remove every obstruction from my people’s way.” For thus says the high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with those who are contrite and humble in spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite. For I will not continually accuse, nor will I always be angry; for then the spirits would grow faint before me, even the souls that I have made. Because of their wicked covetousness I was angry; I struck them, I hid and was angry; but they kept turning back to their own ways. I have seen their ways, but I will heal them; I will lead them and repay them with comfort, creating for their mourners the fruit of the lips. Peace, peace, to the far and the near, says the Lord; and I will heal them.

Isaiah 57:14–19 (NRSV)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People.

Thanks be to God.

Song *Sing out My Soul*

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Sing out, my soul, sing out, my soul. Sing out and glo-ri-fy the Lord who sets us free." The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "Sing out, my soul, sing out my soul. Sing out and glo-ri-fy the Lord God." The melody is simple and melodic, using quarter and eighth notes.

A Reading from John.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, “We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever.

How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” Jesus said to them, “The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.” After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

John 12:27–36 (NRSV)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People.
Thanks be to God.

Song *My Soul is at Rest*



At this time, a reflection, or a discussion may be offered

Following the discussion, there will be an extended period of silence

Silence is an important part of the Taizé tradition.
The silence is not a pause in the service, but a deliberate removal of activity that creates space for reflection and calm. During this time, center your breathing, quiet your senses, and open yourself to stillness.

The Creed & Prayers

The People stand

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,

We entreat you, O Lord.

A Collect for Thomas Merton

Gracious God, you called your monk Thomas Merton to proclaim your justice out of silence, and moved him in his contemplative writings to perceive and value Christ at work in the faiths of others: Keep us, like him, steadfast in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Peace

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

A Collect for Mission

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Additional intercessions may be offered

The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

A Prayer of Common Supplication

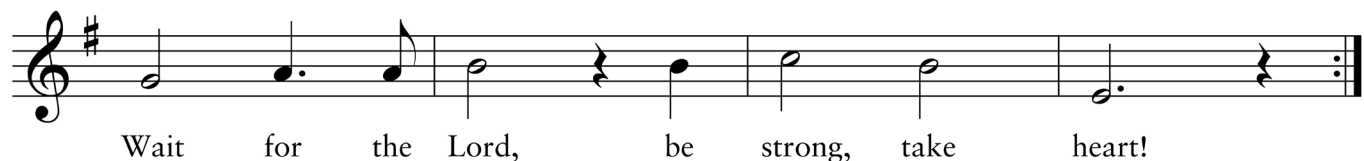
Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20,21

Song *Stay With Us*



Participants in Today's Service

The Rev. Canon Adrienne Koch, *Officiant*

Hannah Irvine, Lisa Hirzel, William "Bill" Ponzani, Ronnie Dailey, *Vocalists*

Emily Butler, *Organ*

Gayle Getts, *Flute*

Charlie Davis, *Oboe*

Shiloh Roby, *Piano*

Services At Trinity Cathedral *(Academic Year)*

SUNDAY

8A

Spoken Eucharist

9A

The Abundant Table
Eucharist

11:15A

Choral Eucharist

5P*

Solemn Eucharist
**first Sunday of the month*

WEDNESDAY

6P

Choral Evensong
**first, third, & fifth Wednesday of the month*

6P

Expansive Evensong
**second and fourth Wednesday of the month*

THURSDAY

12:10P

Healing Eucharist

Trinity Cathedral
2230 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, OH 44115
216.771.3630

