

Opening Prayer:

Thanks be to you O Christ,

**For the many gifts you have bestowed on us,  
Each day and night, each sea and land,  
Each weather fair, each calm, each wild.**

Each night may we remember your mercy given so gently and generously.

**Each thing we have received, from you it came.**

**Each thing for which we hope, from your love it will come.**

**Each thing we enjoy, it is of your bounty.**

**Each thing we ask, comes of your arranging.**

O God, from whom each thing that is, freely flows,

**Grant that our work this evening be your work and our lives be yours. Amen.**

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.

You have enlarged the nation  
and increased their joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as warriors rejoice  
when dividing the plunder.

For as in the day of Midian's defeat,  
you have shattered  
the yoke that burdens them,  
the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor.

Reflection:

When the lights are on  
and the house is full  
and laughter is easy and all is well...

**Behold I stand at the door and knock.**

When the lights are low  
and the house is still  
and the talk is intense  
and the air is full of wondering...

**Behold I stand at the door and knock.**

When the lights are off  
and the house is sad  
and the voice troubled  
and nothing seems right

**Behold I stand at the door and knock.**

And tonight,  
Always tonight,  
As if there were no other people,  
No other house,  
No other door...

**Behold I stand at the door and knock**

Come, Lord Jesus be our guest,  
stay with us for the day is ending  
with friend, with stranger,  
with neighbor, and the well-known ones, be among us tonight

**For the doors of our house, we open  
And the doors of our hearts we leave ajar.**

Closing Prayer:

Jesus Christ is the light of the world: a light no darkness can quench.

Stay with us Lord, it is evening, and the day is almost over.

The darkness is not dark to you, the night is as bright as the day.

Let your light scatter the darkness and fill your church with your glory. **Amen.**