


# THE TIME HAS COME

Now is the time of grace.

2 Cor 6:2

## Guide to the Light of Altenberg

with songs for vigil and sending mass as  
well as information about the program



Jer 1,10  
o ausreißen  
o niederreißen  
o aufbauen  
o einpflanzen



## Thoughts on the motto of the Light of Altenberg 2024: The Time has Come

“Now is the acceptable time, the time of Grace.” (2 Cor 6:2)

“pluck up—pull down—build—plant” (Jer 1:10)

The Light of Altenberg is being envisioned and carried out by a group of young adults. Each year in fall, we start working on next year’s festival by looking for a motto that captures the essence of what we try to convey to our guests on coming May 1st.

Some of the last years’ mottos were “Take up the Light in both your hands”—“I am with you, get up”—“Light in sight”. They were mottos of the pandemic and the multiple crises that troubled the world (and the Church). We had the urgent feeling that what we had to convey to the young people celebrating with us, was mostly hope, consolation, and encouragement. We tried to stir up hope and trust in the fact that there still is a divine light glimmering in you, even if you perceive yourself to be a “jar of clay”, delicate and breakable.

Now, the question is: have things improved, are the crises behind us? Certainly not, so much we have to realistically acknowledge, no sugarcoating allowed. That being said—is it enough then to whisper words of hope to one another, just to be able to find a good night’s sleep after the Light of Altenberg? “God will take care of all things...?” And even if God does—what is our mission then? “The love of Christ urges us on.” That’s what St. Paul writes to the Corinthians. We do have a responsibility, we cannot lie back, time is pressing. The “eleventh hour” was yesterday in many places. Today, not tomorrow, is the time to act. We are not only responsible for the little spark of hope in ourselves but for the whole of Creation, for the world, our society, our Church. We have a vocation for this world!

“Okay, but ...” you might answer. “How much change can I achieve?” And that is right: many crises are too big and too complex for me to tackle immediately, true enough. Very few are powerful enough to turn on the big gear wheels of our world, and that may be frustrating. And yet it should not! The mechanics of this world—like a clockwork—have and need the intricate gear wheels that are not less important for the whole, little though they may be. And thus: what is the immediate context of my world where the sprockets of my gear wheel grab? In what proximity am I an effective agent of change? Then that is my calling, my vocation! The time has come!

“Now is the time of Grace” is another one of St. Paul’s exclamations in the Second Letter to the Corinthians. It expresses the spirit in which we participate in remodeling and transforming the world. Knowing that our time may be full of challenges, but it is certainly not god-less nor help-less. Nonetheless, it seemed too soft and “harmless” labeling our time a “time of Grace”. That is why we accompanied the sentence with yet another passage from Scripture, giving us a “checklist for change” that we found in the vocation of the prophet Jeremiah: “Do not be afraid, for I am with you to deliver you. Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me: now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

Whatever we have to do, wherever our vocation might lead us: it is certainly not going to be harmless—and that is why we ourselves are not harmless nor powerless!



*Fr. Tobias Schwaderlapp  
(Diocesan Youth Minister)  
on this year’s motto*

## The Light of Altenberg

### The History

The Light of Altenberg takes its name from the small town of Altenberg in the Bergisches Land. Here, in 1922, within the walls of a former Cistercian abbey, still commemorated by its monastery church, the Altenberg Cathedral, today's youth pastoral centre of the Archdiocese of Cologne was established. At that time, Altenberg developed into the centre of Catholic youth in Germany. The cathedral and the Altenberg Madonna became the outward sign of togetherness, the "heart of the covenant".



The Light of Altenberg was created in 1950 after the horrors of the Second World War as a sign of Catholic youth for reconciliation and peace in Europe. From Altenberg, a light was sent on its journey, which was passed on in the form of a star relay in all directions and reached the borders of Germany. Within a few years, this developed into a European theme.

In the mid-1960s, after the Second Vatican Council and the atmosphere of the emerging student unrest, the celebration of the Light of Altenberg was discontinued because it was felt that such a form of liturgical celebration was no longer appropriate for young people.

In 1980, a lively new beginning emerged. The number of participants grew from year to year, and at times around 3,000 young people from Germany and abroad came to Altenberg every year on 1 May to receive and carry the light.

In 1987, Pope John Paul II received the light in the Cologne football stadium on the occasion of Edith Stein's beatification and sent it on at the end of Holy Mass. At this great and groundbreaking event, the significance of the Light of Altenberg grew. From the 90s of the 20th century until today, the Light of Altenberg has been

carried again and again to outstanding events and to different places. For example, the Light of Altenberg was brought to the Katholikentag in Berlin (1990), to the Katholikentag in Dresden (1994), to Częstochowa, the great Marian place of pilgrimage of the Polish nation, and to the Auschwitz concentration camp, where it still burns in the death cell of the holy Father Maximilian Kolbe.

It made its way to France, to the French city of Besançon for an international youth meeting in the run-up to the World Youth Day in Paris (1997), to the Kosovo refugee camp in Albania to German soldiers who were there on a peace mission for Kosovo (1999), to the World Youth Day in Rome (2000) and even to Jerusalem in the Holy Land, where it was taken in 2002.

But there was also the reverse movement: The lighting of the light in an important place and bringing it to Altenberg. In 1993, for example, as part of the National Youth Day in Lithuania, the light was carried to Altenberg by young people from the partner dioceses of the Archdiocese of Cologne, Kaunas and Vilnius.

In 2005, it came to Altenberg as the Light of Bethlehem and was sent out as the Light of Altenberg in the presence of the World Youth Day Cross. In 2006, the light was lit at the grave of the recently deceased inventor of the World Youth Days, Pope John Paul II, and brought to the Light of Altenberg. The Light of Altenberg has seen many stages, which will not be elaborated on here.

After the Light of Altenberg could not be celebrated in 2020 due to the pandemic and took place mainly digitally the following year, we were finally able to send it out again in 2022 in the filled cathedral—still wearing masks. Since 2023, we have finally been able to look each other in the face again during the celebration and carry a sign of hope and confidence into the world with the light.

Again and again, the Light of Altenberg is a sign of the togetherness of young Christians in Germany, in Europe and throughout the world.

# NOTES

## This Is What You Should Know

The sending of the Light of Altenberg is a spiritual event to which several thousand young people travel every year.

As organizers, it's important to us to ensure that this celebration retains its spiritual character. Therefore, we ask you to observe the following instructions.

## The Light

To transport the light over longer distances, it is strongly recommended to use a closed lantern, oil or petroleum lamp. Before and after the sending Mass, the Altenberg Light Shop near the cathedral portal offers lanterns for sale.

## Prevention

It is important for us to point out at this point, in the sense of prevention, that we have a *culture of mindfulness* and have also created regulations and contact points for this. If you meet someone inappropriately and if they come too close to you, please contact your group leader or contact us directly via the telephone number below.

- **A worry and wish box**, in the form of a fixed and lockable letterbox, is installed on the premises. Instructions for use can be found on the box itself.
- **Is Luisa there?** This question can be used at any time when looking for help. If you contact someone from the initiative group or the volunteers with this question, we will know that you are in an urgent situation and will respond immediately.
- **Complaint mobile phone:** The following number is active as an emergency number during the events:  
+ 49 (0) 16 26 07 35 60

## The Night Owls

Groups or individuals who are still adventurous and want to chat with each other are invited to the TeilBar in the new recreation room in Haus Altenberg, which is open until 2:30 a.m. Here you can toast with beer or wine that you have brought yourself—elsewhere it might disturb the night's rest. We especially appeal to the group leaders to point out these regulations to their own group. Please help us to make the Altenberg Light a pleasant, contemplative and unforgettable experience for all participants.

## The Catering

Tea and coffee will be served for breakfast at Haus Altenberg. After the sending Mass, participants will have the opportunity to fortify themselves for the journey home with a warm stew. Vegetarian pea soup will be served while stocks last.

## Banners and Flags

We are again pleased about the many banners that have been brought to Altenberg. There is enough space for many banner bearers in the large choir room of Altenberg Cathedral; they should therefore also be present at the procession. The banner bearers meet shortly before 10 a.m. in front of the main portal of the cathedral.

## International Guests

After they were already present online last year, this year a delegation of Japanese scouts from Tokyo will be visiting the Light of Altenberg. We want to maintain the long-standing partnership between the dioceses of Cologne and Tokyo and are delighted that the Japanese brothers and sisters have made the journey to collect the Light of Altenberg. Welcome “yokoso—ようこそ” to Altenberg.

# PROGRAM

## Tuesday 30 April 2024

### From 4 p.m.: Arrival

Room and campsite occupancy

### 7 p.m.: Opening

Program in and around Haus Altenberg and Cathedral with workshops, TeilBar

### 11 p.m.: Vigil

with ignition of the Light of Altenberg in the Cathedral

## Wednesday 1 May 2024

### 10 a.m.: Sending Mass

with the sending of the Light of Altenberg and the peace message to the families and communities

### After Mass: Stew Dinner

After the mass on 1 May there is the opportunity to eat a stew while stocks last.

# VIGIL

## Liturgical Opening and Welcome

**Impulse:** Felix Köller and Hanna Kindervater

**Prayer:** Lara Schroeren

Good God,

it is burning—all over the world: in the great wars between nations and very close to us, in the midst of the reality of our lives. Tonight we stand in the blazing fire of Altenberg Cathedral. We see before us the great conflicts around the world. We are overcome with helplessness in the face of so many who are waiting for an end to the war far from their homes. We see before us the many fatalities and the plight of refugees seeking protection and help.

The flames also remind us of blazing forest fires and climate catastrophes all over the world. We realise ever more clearly that we are running out of time to preserve your creation—the basis of our existence.

Perhaps we also recognise in the flames the division of our society, the ever-increasing poverty, the lack of justice. We look with incomprehension at the agitation, hatred and violence in Europe, in our country, perhaps very close to us at work, at school ...

But our own personal conflicts also appear in the flames—the situations in which we have failed to do something for our fellow human beings, where we have been inattentive and selfish.

Good God, the world is on fire and you are sending us precisely into this reality. We stand before you tonight and ask you for your peacemaking and healing light. We entrust our feeling of powerlessness to you and ask you to transform it into a thirst for action. Show each of us a way and let us recognise our mission in a very concrete way.

Let us become powerful witnesses to your good news and enable us to live effectively in this world. We believe that you can transform our fears, our despair and our inertia. Give us the certainty that you are with us and give us an open heart for your work tonight and all the days of our lives.

## Ignition of the Light of Altenberg

### Prayer of Thanks

## Distribution of Light and Baptismal Remembrance

**I Have a Light:** Choir/Band

T+M: Don Potter

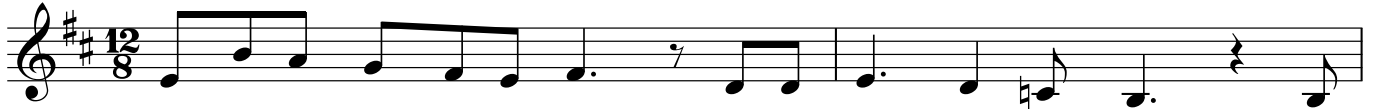
**Reading:** Jer 1:4-10

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’ for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with

you to deliver you, says the Lord.” Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me “Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

## Nicht vor den Göttern der Macht

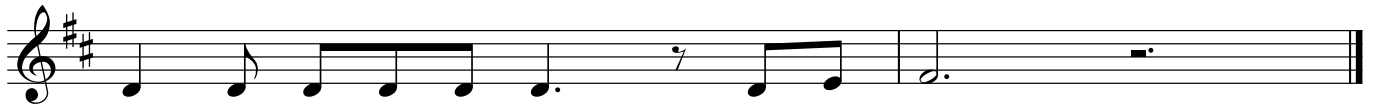
T: Helmut Schlegel | M: Alexander Keidel



1) Nicht vor den Göt - tern der Macht will ich beu - gen die Knie. Ich  
 2) Nicht vor den Rei - chen der Welt will ich nei - gen mein Haupt. Ich  
 3) Nicht für Ge - schwätz und Ge - rücht will ich öff - nen mein Ohr. Ich  
 4) Nicht an Er - folg und Ge - winn will ich hän - gen mein Herz. Ich



beu - ge mein Knie, Gott, vor dir. Ich weiß und ich glau - be ganz fest:  
 nei - ge mein Haupt, Gott, vor dir. Ich weiß und ich glau - be ganz fest:  
 öff - ne mein Ohr, Gott, für dich. Ich weiß und ich glau - be ganz fest:  
 hän - ge mein Herz, Gott, an dich. Ich weiß und ich glau - be ganz fest:



Du, mein Bru - der und Freund, bist bei mir.  
 Mei - ne Wür - de, mein Wert kommt von dir.  
 Dei - ne Wor - te sind wahr auch für mich.  
 Du bist treu und du stehst fest zu mir.

## Catechesis: Fr. Tobias Schwaderlapp

### Exposition

### Wir sind hier: Choir/Band

T+M: Lothar Kosse

### Silence

### Intercessions: Herr, mein Beten

T: psalm 141,2 | M: Matthias Kreuels



Herr, mein Be - ten stei - ge zu dir auf wie Weih - Rauch, wie das



Op - fer am A - bend, wenn ich mei - ne Hän - de er - he - be.

### Our Father

## Tantum ergo

T: Thomas of Aquin | M: Einsiedeln

Tan - tum er - go sa - cra - men - tum ve - ne - re - mur cer - nu - i,  
Ge - ni - to - ri ge - ni - to - que laus et ju - bi - la - ti - o.

et an - ti - quum do - cu - men - tum no - vo ce - dat ri - tu - i.  
Sa - lus ho - nor vir - tus quo - que sit et be - ne - dic - ti - o!

Prae - stet fi - des sup - ple - men - tum sen - su - um de - fec - tu - i.  
Pro - ce - den - ti ab u - tro - que com - par sit lau - da - ti - o. A - men.

## Blessing

### Sei du geseget

T+M: Kai Lünemann

Sei du ge - seg - net. Sei du ge - seg - net.

Auf all dei - nen We - gen blei - be der Herr bei dir.

## Transfer of the Light of Altenberg to the Chapel of Christ the King

### Note for Night Owls

Groups or individuals who are still adventurous and want to chat with each other are invited to the TeilBar in the new recreation room in Haus Altenberg, which is open until 2:30 a.m. Here you can toast with beer or wine that you have brought yourself—elsewhere it might disturb the night's rest. We especially appeal to the group lead-

ers to point out these regulations to their own group. Please help us to make the Altenberg Light a pleasant, contemplative and unforgettable experience for all participants.

# SENDING MASS

## Banners and Flags

We are again pleased about the many banners that have been brought to Altenberg. There is enough space for many banner bearers in the large choir room of Alten-

berg Cathedral; they should therefore also be present at the procession. The banner bearers meet shortly before 10 a.m. in front of the main portal of the cathedral.

## Entry

### Altenberger Wallfahrtslied

T: Georg Thrumair | M: Adolf Lohmann



1. Nun, Freun - de, sind wir wohl - ge - mut, so will es Gott\_\_ ge - fal - len.  
Der Herr ist sei - nem Vol - ke gut: Nun soll ein Lob\_\_ er - schal - len.

2. Es lobt das Licht und das Ge - stein gar herr - lich dich\_\_ mit Schwei - gen.  
Der Son - ne Glanz, des Mon - des Schein will dei - ne Wun - der zei - gen.

3. Wir zün - den froh die Ker - zen an, dass sie sich still\_\_ ver - bren - nen,  
und lö - sen die - sen dunk - len Bann, dass wir kein Bild\_\_ er - ken - nen.

4. Lass dei - ne Lich - ter hell und gut an al - len Stra - ßen bren - nen!  
Gib al - len Her - zen rech - ten Mut, dass sie ihr Ziel\_\_ er - ken - nen!



1. Wir grü - ßen dich in dei - nem Haus, du Mut - ter al - ler Gna - den. Nun

2. Wir a - ber kom - men aus der Zeit ganz arm\_\_ in dei - ne Hel - le und

3. Du Mut - ter und du Kö - ni - gin, der al - les hin - ge - ge - ben, das

4. Und füh - re uns in al - ler Zeit mit dei - nen gu - ten Händ - den, um



brei - te dei - ne Hän - de aus, dann wird kein Feind\_\_ uns scha - den.

tra - gen Sün - de, tra - gen Leid zu dei - ner Gna - den - quel - le.

En - de und der An - be - ginn, die Lie - be und\_\_ das Le - ben.

Got - tes gro - ße Herr - lich - keit in De - mut zu\_\_ voll - en - den.

## Liturgical Opening and Welcome

**Introduction to the Motto:** Lara Schroeren and Marvin Dederichs



## Herr, erbarme dich

T: liturgical | M: Albert Frey

Herr, er-bar - me dich. Herr, er-bar - me dich. Herr, er-bar - me dich.

Herr, er-bar - me dich. Chris-tus, er-bar - me dich. Chris-tus, er-bar - me

dich. Chris-tus, er-bar - me dich. Chris-tus, er-bar - me dich.

## Gloria, Ehre sei Gott

T+M: Albert Frey

Eh-re sei Gott, Eh-re sei Gott in der Hö - he, in der Hö - he!

Eh-re sei Gott und Frie-de auf Er - den den Men - schen sei-ner Gna - de. Wir

lo - ben dich, wir prei - sen dich, wir be - ten dich an. Wir

rüh-men dich, und dan-ken dir, denn groß ist dei-ne Herr-lich-keit.

## Prayer

## Reading: 2 Cor 6:2-10

For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for

the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

## Befehl dem Herrn

T+M: Dania König



8



## Hallelujah

T: liturgical | M: from Ireland



## Gospel: John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you

can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

# Hallelujah Reprise

Catechesis: Fr. Tobias Schwaderlapp

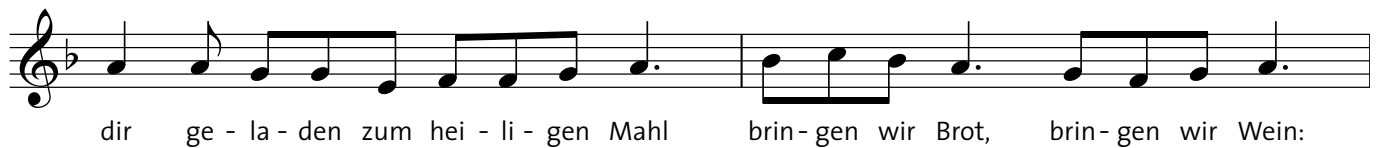
## Intercessions

### Offertory: Versammelt um deinen Tisch

T+M: Norbert M. Becker



Ver-sam-melt um dei-nen Tisch als Schwes-tern und Brü-der im Glau-ben, von



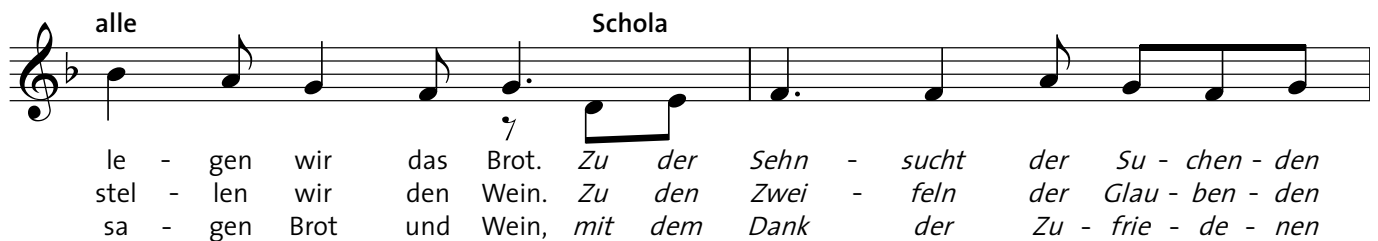
dir ge-la-den zum hei-li-gen Mahl brin-gen wir Brot, brin-gen wir Wein:



Du, Je-sus, wirst uns in ü-ber-gro-ßer Lie-be na-he sein. So



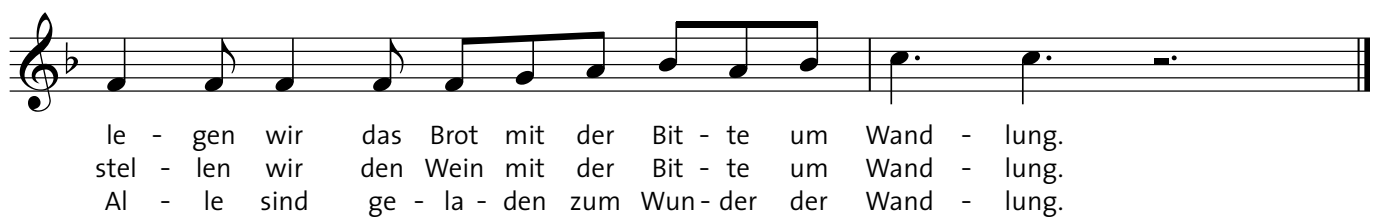
wan-delst du Brot, so wan-delst du Wein. Schola  
 1) Zu den Ru-fen der Bit-ten-den  
 2) Zu den Schmer-zen der Lei-den-den  
 3) Mit dem Glück al-ler Lie-ben-den



alle Schola  
 le-gen wir das Brot. Zu der Sehn-sucht der Su-chen-den  
 stel-len wir den Wein. Zu den Zwei-feln der Glau-ben-den  
 sa-gen Brot und Wein, mit dem Dank der Zu-frie-de-nen



alle Schola alle  
 le-gen wir das Brot. Zu der Not der Ent-rech-te-ten le-gen wir das Brot,  
 stel-len wir den Wein. Zu Ent-täu-schung und Bit-ter-keit stel-len wir den Wein,  
 sa-gen Brot und Wein, mit der De-mut der Gü-ti-gen sa-gen Brot und Wein:



le-gen wir das Brot mit der Bit-te um Wand-lung.  
 stel-len wir den Wein mit der Bit-te um Wand-lung.  
 Al-le sind ge-la-den zum Wun-der der Wand-lung.

### Großes hat der Herr getan: Choir/Band

T+M: Rebecca Watta



## Sanctus: Heilig, heilig, heilig

T+M: Albert Frey

Hei - lig, hei - lig, hei - lig, — Gott und Herr al - ler Mäch - te und Ge - wal - ten. Er -  
 füllt sind Him - mel und Er - de — von Dei - ner Herr - lich - keit. Ho - san - na — in der  
 Hö - he! — Hoch - ge - lobt — sei, der da kommt, im Na - men des Herrn!  
 — Ho - san - na — in der Hö - he! — Hoch - ge - lobt  
 — sei, der da kommt im Na - men des Herrn! — im Na - men des Herrn! —

## Our Father

### Salutation

### Da berühren sich Himmel und Erde

T: Thomas Laubach | M: Christoph Lehmann

1. Wo Men - schen sich ver - ges - sen, die We - ge ver - las - sen  
 2. Wo Men - schen sich ver - schen - ken, die Lie - be be - den - ken  
 3. Wo Men - schen sich ver - bün - den, den Hass ü - ber - win - den

Ref.  
 und neu be - gin - nen, ganz neu, da be - rüh - ren sich Him - mel und  
 Er - de, dass Frie - den wer - de un - ter uns, da be - rüh - ren sich Him - mel und Er - de, dass

Frie - den wer - de un - ter uns.

**Communion**

**Herr, wohin sonst:** Choir/Band

T+M: Thea Eichholz

**Shout to the Lord**

T+M: Darlene Zschech

Shout to the Lord\_ all the earth,\_ let us sing,\_\_\_\_\_ po-wer and ma - jes- ty, praise  
 4 \_\_\_\_\_ to the King. Moun- tains bow down and the seas\_\_\_\_\_ will roar at the sound of your  
 8 name.\_\_\_\_\_ I sing for joy\_ at the work\_ of your hands, for - e- ver I'll love\_ you, for-e-  
 12 - ver I'll stand. No- thing com- pares to the pro - mise I have in\_\_\_\_\_ you.

**Maria sama no kokoro**

T+M: traditional

Ma - ri - a sa - ma no ko - ko - ro so - re wa a - o - zo - ra \_\_\_\_\_  
 ka - shi - no - ki \_\_\_\_\_  
 u - gu - i - su \_\_\_\_\_  
 ya - ma - yu - ri \_\_\_\_\_  
 sa - fa - i - ya \_\_\_\_\_

Wa - ta - shi - ta - chi wo tsu - tsu - mu hi - ro - i a - o - zo - ra. \_\_\_\_\_  
 wo ma - mo - ru tsu - yo - i ka - shi - no - ki. \_\_\_\_\_  
 to u - ta - u mo - ri no u - gu - i - su. \_\_\_\_\_  
 mo ho - shi - i shi - ro - i ya - ma - yu - ri. \_\_\_\_\_  
 wo ka - za - ru hi - ka - ru sa - fa - i - ya. \_\_\_\_\_

## Closing Prayer

### Sending of the Light of Altenberg

#### Sending out words

#### Ein Licht in dir geborgen

T+M: Gregor Linßen



1. Ein Fun - ke aus Stein ge - schla - gen wird  
 2. Glut in Was - sern ge - sun - ken wird



Feu - er in kal - ter Nacht. Ein Stern vom Him - mel ge - fal - len zieht  
 Glanz in spie - geln - der Flut. Ein Strahl durch Wol - ken ge - drun - gen wird

#### Ref.



Spu - ren von Got - tes Macht. So wie die Nacht flieht vor dem Mor - gen,  
 Quell von neu - em Mut.



so zieht die Angst aus dem Sinn, so wächst ein Licht in dir ge - bor - gen,



die Kraft zum neu - en Be - ginn.

## Blessing

### Irische Segenswünsche

T+M: Markus Pytlik



1. Mö - ge die Stra - ße uns zu - sam - men - füh - ren  
 2. Füh - re die Stra - ße, die du gehst  
 3. Hab un - term Kopf ein wei - ches Kis - sen,  
 4. Bis wir uns mal wie - der se - hen,



und der Wind in dei - nem Rü - cken sein; sanft fal - le Re - gen  
 im - mer nur zu dei - nem Ziel berg - ab; hab, wenn es kühl wird,  
 ha - be Klei - dung und das täg - lich Brot; sei ü - ber vier - zig  
 hof - fe ich, dass Gott dich nicht ver - lässt; er hal - te dich in





auf dei - ne Fel - der und warm auf dein Ge - sicht der Son - nen - schein.  
 war - me Ge - dan - ken und den vol - len Mond in dunk - ler Nacht.  
 Jah - re im Him - mel, be - vor der Teu - fel merkt, du bist schon tot.  
 sei - nen Hän - den, doch drü - cke sei - ne Faust dich nie zu fest.



Und bis wir uns wie - der - se - hen, hal - te Gott dich fest in sei - ner Hand;



und bis wir uns wie - der - se - hen, hal - te Gott dich fest in sei - ner Hand.



## Final Procession

### Praise

T+M: Brandon Lake et al.



Praise the Lord, oh my soul!

## Stew Dinner

After the sending Mass, participants will have the opportunity to fortify themselves for the journey home with

a warm stew. Vegetarian pea soup will be served while stocks last.

# HANDING OVER THE LIGHT

## Elements for a Service in the Parishes and at Other Places

*It's time! Time for Light, for the Light of Altenberg, time to say "yes" and dare to do something. Year after year, the Light of Altenberg is lit and passed on under the eyes of the Altenberg Madonna. Mary is said to be "full of grace" and "the Lord is with her". The time of grace begins with her, through her Christ, the light and salvation, shines into this world in a very human way. HE, who brings hope, confidence and a future, also wants to enlighten us, grace us and walk with us—in all the things we try to do and in all that we are committed to. Our little lights set a sign for compassion, solidarity, peace, love and trust in God and against violence, injustice, hatred, fear, grief, need, doubt*

*and dissatisfaction, wherever people long for comfort, reach their limits, need encouragement, hope for reconciliation, miss community, where they are alone or lost, exhausted or ill, old or unsuccessful. With the light in our hands and hearts, we radiate the goodness and grace of God—again and again!*

You can use these ideas and prayers or adapt the service according to your needs and wishes.

## Song

### Liturgical Opening

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Personal Words

#### Kyrie

- Lord Jesus Christ, you are the hope and the light of the world, you make the little ones great and the weak ones strong. Lord, have mercy.
- You encourage people to set out, to take their lives into their own hands and to help build the kingdom of God. Christ, have mercy on us.
- You entrust us with your good news and call us to follow your example. Lord, have mercy.

#### Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, sometimes we are blind to the talents in our fellow human beings and in ourselves, to our light and our strengths. Your grace is the source of strength in our lives. You speak salvation and peace, dignity and mercy to us and take us into your story. Fill us with confidence, let us experience your presence again and again and trust in your good news, so that we can bring to fruition what we have been given and so that the kingdom of God can grow and flourish through us with your help. We ask you for this now and every day of our lives. Amen.



## Reading to the Choice

### Wisdom 3:9

Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

### Jeremiah 31:2-6

Thus says the Lord: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall adorn yourself with your tambourines and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers. Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant and shall enjoy the fruit. For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God."

## Song

### Catechesis

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!" With these words Paul begins his letters to the young Christian churches. "Grace"—for Paul the quintessence of his preaching—sounds strange and antiquated to our ears today; at best we can still find juristical references or proverbs: someone behaves mercilessly, shows mercy or mercy before justice, someone falls from grace, is merciful or is pardoned. But that is not what Paul means. So what does it mean when the time of grace has come NOW? How can I recognize it?

Sometimes we read or hear that people are particularly gifted—richly endowed with a talent—musicians, athletes, speakers or entrepreneurs—people who seem to be better, more intelligent, funnier or more successful than others, who can make a difference, perhaps in contrast to myself? What can I really achieve in this world? But everyone has their own personal abilities, however small and inconspicuous they may be; we are gifted by God, called to say "yes", like Mary.

Grace is God's great gift to each and every one of us, his unconditional love, and his concession, which precedes every human action; his appreciation, which gives me confidence, lifts me up and makes me great, his kindness,

### 2 Corinthians 6:1-2

As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation!



which forgives me when I make wrong decisions. I do not make an impact by my own strength, but because I am gifted and graced with God's spirit. I can live in communion with Christ and draw new strength again and again from the trust that he places in me, without having to fulfill any conditions. God's grace does not force itself on me, I cannot make it happen, but I am invited to be attentive when it becomes tangible in my life. Grace is no guarantee of happiness and it is at risk. Paul warns us not to receive God's grace in vain or to glorify our own abilities.

God wants to change something for the better through us in this world and he asks today and here: Are you ready to use your talents to contribute to my kingdom in the midst of people, will you take responsibility for the dream of peace, justice and well-being? Are you ready to become active, like a gardener or master builder, uprooting and planting, tearing down and building up?

Are you ready to do your part to make my presence visible in the world? There are these little moments full of grace: an encouraging word, a grateful encounter, a creative idea, a loving hug, a good conversation, ... whenever I become aware of God's undeserved attention and don't keep to myself what I have been given.



## Song

### Intercessions

By your grace, good God, we live. We build on your love, full of trust we pray ...

- ... for the people all over the world, who suffer of war, for the victims of dictatorships, the refugees at the borders and in the camps, for the persecuted and the silenced. We also pray for the bridge builders and peacemakers.
- ... for the people who have lost their self-confidence and who have withdrawn, who no longer believe that they can still make a difference. We also pray for all those who develop their talents and dare to go their own way.
- ... for those people who are never satisfied with themselves, who do not turn their many ideas into action and make high demands of others. We also pray for all those who give warmth and security through their commitment.
- ... for those people who have power, money and influence, on whose grace the well-being of many others depends. We also pray for all those who are mercilessly exploited or unjustly condemned and for those who are aware of their responsibility in society, business, politics and the church.

### Our Father

Our prayers, searches and hopes, our concern for others, our silence, stammering and speaking—everything we have spoken and everything we pray for silently in our

### Impulse

*Light distribution to all the participants.*

I can shine because I trust the light more than the darkness.

I can shine trusting in God who brought light into this world through his Son and fills me with his Holy Spirit.

I can shine and be translucent to the light of God like an angel.



- ... for the people who are sick, injured, hopeless and lonely, who are marginalized and excluded. We also pray for all those who protect the bodies and souls of others, who give light and warmth with their kindness and love.

You, God, do not measure us by our deeds alone. Our faith is enough for you, our trust that we are born of your grace. Strengthen us in this faith, in love and hope through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

thoughts, we take with us into the prayer of God's children: Our Father ...

I am a glow of light when I see the need of others and help them,  
when I stand up for the truth,  
when I bring about reconciliation and learn to forgive for myself,  
when I care for others and listen to them.

I am a glimmer of hope when I share my joy, my time, my trust, my faith with others. I shine when I accept myself with my gifts and limitations, my strengths and faults.

## Blessing

God, our Father, your kingdom is in our midst, where we open ourselves to your message, where we trust in your grace and love, where we do not despair, where we look, listen or empathize, where we courageously open our mouths, where we make a concrete and conscious commitment to others.

Be with us on our paths, strengthen our steps, be a song on our lips and the confidence of our hearts.

May the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit bless us and all those who are united with us. Amen.



## Song





## Imprint

Planning, design and implementation of the event by the Initiative Group Light of Altenberg.

## Music

Altenberg Project Band: Finja Sellke, Lukas Janik, Olli Schmitz, Lukas, Samuel and Sebastian Roth and the Altenberg Background Singers

## Media Design

y<sup>2</sup> – hand in hand communication | yhochzwei.de

We would like to thank all those involved in the preparation, the implementation and above all to you, the participants, who bring this event and celebration of peace to life. Thank you for being here.

Your Initiative Group Light of Altenberg

Information on events, activities and other offers can be found on the pages of the youth pastoral care in the Archdiocese of Cologne.

- 🏠 [www.kja.de](http://www.kja.de)  
[www.altenbergerlicht.de](http://www.altenbergerlicht.de)
- 📷 [@jugendseelsorge.ebk](https://www.instagram.com/jugendseelsorge.ebk)  
[@altenbergerlicht](https://www.instagram.com/altenbergerlicht)
- 📌 [jugendseelsorge.erzbistum.koeln](https://www.facebook.com/jugendseelsorge.erzbistum.koeln)  
[altenbergerlicht](https://www.facebook.com/altenbergerlicht)

