

2 Now The Evening Gives Way To Darkness/
As The Darkness Of Death Surrounds Us

TE LUCIS
Tony Barr

(♩ = ca. 76)
(Descant on Vss. 3, 5)

Descant



3. Work is o - ver, the day com - plet - ed, in the
5. Be a - mong us, our prom - ised Day - star, give your

(Harmony recommended on Vss. 2 & 5)

**Soprano
Alto**



1. Now the eve - ning gives way to dark - ness, now the
2. For the bright - ness of pass - ing day - light, for the
3. Work is o - ver, the day com - plet - ed, in the
4. As we rest safe with - in your keep - ing, earth is
5. Be a - mong us, our prom - ised Day - star, give your

**Tenor
Bass**



Keyboard



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3. si - lence, your word is near; _____ be the fu - ture of all who
5. hope _____ to the poor who cry; _____ be our strength _____ in this world of

1. stars _____ of the night ap - pear; _____ shed your light _____ and your peace a -
2. fruits _____ of the earth this day, _____ it is good _____ that we make thanks -
3. si - lence, your word is near; _____ be the fu - ture of all who
4. wrapped _____ in the robe of night; _____ but when day - break sends out its
5. hope _____ to the poor who cry; _____ be our strength _____ in this world of

3. seek _____ you, _____ be a strong - hold in ev - 'ry fear. _____
5. weak - ness, _____ be the light _____ which shall nev - er die. _____

1. round _____ us; _____ be a - mong us who gath - er here. _____
2. giv - ing, _____ that we praise you in ev - 'ry way. _____
3. seek _____ you, _____ be a strong - hold in ev - 'ry fear. _____
4. greet - ing, _____ we re - joice in the new - born light. _____
5. weak - ness, _____ be the light which shall nev - er die. _____

As The Darkness Of Death Surrounds Us

(alternate text)

1. As the darkness of death surrounds us,
in our sorrow, the night draws near.
In our sadness, we look for comfort,
is there light to dispel our fear?
2. For this life which has passed before us,
and the mem'ries which now remain,
it is good that we make thanksgiving,
as we long for the light again.
3. Take your rest, you who lie before us,
as the earth slumbers in the night;
but when daybreak sends out its greeting,
we shall dance in the robe of light.
4. Who has promised to be among us,
Who is hope for the poor who cry?
Who is strength in the pain of darkness,
Who is light which shall never die?
5. As the evening gives way to darkness,
in the silence, a voice is heard:
Who is light, Who is peace around us?
May our future be in that word?

Performance Notes

The traditional evening hymn for Compline (Night Prayer), *Te Lucis Ante Terminum*, from a medieval French tradition, is a somewhat introspective song, arising from a spirituality which based its perceptions on pious reflections about life and death. Because such piety and fervor are somewhat anachronistic for us, it seems appropriate to write a similar song for the day's ending which would reflect the theology and sentiments of our own times. This is one of the prime times of our life, a rite of passage from light to darkness. Such a moment compels us to reflect on both the important and the insignificant moments of our life that day.

As the assembly gathers to celebrate the night watches, the first ritual act of our gathering for vigil is to observe the time-honored traditions of kindling the evening lights. This evening candle, lit at the moment of darkness, is a symbol that the Risen Christ, who is our Light, is present among us as we gather once more to give thanks for yet another day completed, and as we keep watch for that moment of his return. On that day, he will gather to himself all who have remained faithful to his memory.

The history of keeping vigil is rooted in Judaism, a practice observed and handed on by the Apostolic Church. As Jews, the early disciples continued to gather every Friday evening at sunset to welcome in the Sabbath. As Christians, they gathered once again at sunset on Saturday, this time in observance of the Resurrection. Having assembled in the darkening room, the liturgy began with a lighting of the Christ candle, accompanied by a blessing (thanksgiving) hymn for God's goodness as seen in Christ. At a later time, as pagan Greek practices became more influential, this evening hymn became a song which honored Christ as the eternal light. An extended liturgy of the word followed, in which the *koinonia* (community of new ways) reflected on the Hebrew Scriptures to gain deeper understanding about Jesus Messiah. Vigil ended at sunrise, when the Lord had already come a little closer to the community through their reflective attention during the night.

We too gather at sunset to keep watch during the night in anticipation of the return of the Risen Lord with the dawn. We gather at sunset in memory of one who has died, is risen and will come again. We celebrate this hope of sharing the new dawn with Christ in the company of all our brothers and sisters who have died and gone before us.

The song should be unhurried, with a respectful pause between each verse. Perhaps the entire piece could be played as an introduction, even as a postlude to allow the moment of reflection to settle down before proceeding with the liturgy.

—T.B.

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(Guitar/Vocal)

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1. Now the eve - ning gives way to dark - ness, now the
 2. For the bright - ness of pass - ing day - light, for the
 3. Work is o - ver, the day com - plet - ed, in the
 4. As we rest safe with - in your keep - ing, earth is
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1. As the dark - ness of death sur - rounds us, in our
 2. For this life which has passed be - fore us, and the
 3. Take your rest, you who lie be - fore us, as the
 4. Who has prom - ised to be a - mong us, Who is
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1. stars of the night ap - pear; _____ shed your light and your peace a -
 2. fruits of the earth this day, _____ it is good that we make thanks -
 3. si - lence, your word is near; _____ be the fu - ture of all who
 4. wrapped in the robe of night; _____ but when day - break sends out its
 5. hope to the poor who cry; _____ be our strength in this world of
-
1. sor - row, the night draws near. _____ In our sad - ness, we look for
 2. mem - 'ries which now re - main, _____ it is good that we make thanks -
 3. earth slum - bers in the night; _____ but when day - break sends out its
 4. hope for the poor who cry? _____ Who is strength in the pain of
 5. si - lence, a voice is heard: _____ Who is light, Who is peace a -

1. round _____ us; be a - mong us who gath - er here. _____
 2. giv - ing, that we praise you in ev - 'ry way. _____
 3. seek _____ you, be a strong - hold in ev - 'ry fear. _____
 4. greet - ing, we re - joice in the new - born light. _____
 5. weak - ness, be the light which shall nev - er die. _____
-
1. com - fort, is there light to dis - pel our fear? _____
 2. giv - ing, as we long for the light a - gain. _____
 3. greet - ing, we shall dance in the robe of light. _____
 4. dark - ness, Who is light which shall nev - er die? _____
 5. round _____ us? May our fu - ture be in that word? _____

Assembly Edition

NOW THE EVENING GIVES WAY TO DARKNESS/
AS THE DARKNESS OF DEATH SURROUNDS US

TE LUCIS
Tony Barr



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1. *As the dark - ness of death sur - rounds us, in our*
2. *For this life which has passed be - fore us, and the*
3. *Take your rest, you who lie be - fore us, as the*
4. *Who has prom - ised to be a - mong us, Who is*
5. *As the eve - ning gives way to dark - ness, in the*



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2. fruits of the earth this day, it is good that we make thanks -
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1. round _ us; be a - mong us who gath - er here.
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4. greet - ing, we re - joice in the new - born light.
5. weak - ness, be the light which shall nev - er die.

1. *com - fort, is there light to dis - pel our fear?*
2. *giv - ing, as we long for the light a - gain.*
3. *greet - ing, we shall dance in the robe of light.*
4. *dark - ness, Who is light which shall nev - er die?*
5. *round _ us? May our fu - ture be in that word?*

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