



God's chosen ones, holy and beloved.

Col. 3:12

Guide to the Light of Altenberg

with songs for vigil, sending mass and information about the program

You Are Holy

"God's chosen ones, holy and beloved." (Col. 3:12)

Each year in late autumn, the Initiative Group "Light of Altenberg" meets to reflect on what the motto for the coming year might be. What is close to our hearts? What message do we want to attach to the Light next year? Where do we want to offer comfort, where do we want to give strength? Where, and to what, are we sent in this world? Usually, we also ask: which crisis, which unrest in the world should we focus on?

This year, the motto doesn't center on a crisis, but on a spiritual conviction: You are holy!

Holiness. It's not a word that often crosses our lips; in everyday life, it doesn't play a very prominent role. At most, we might say, "this or that is sacred to me." But what does that mean? What is sacred to you? What is so precious to you that you never want to lose it? What has the greatest value in your life?

The subtitle of our motto gives the answer from God's perspective, as St. Paul writes to a community in what is now Turkey: You are holy to me, I love you, I have chosen you, I have made a decision for you.

"You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved." From the very beginning, from the very start of our lives.

What God takes into His hand is holy. And what God takes into His hand is meant to contribute to holiness, to the healing of the whole world. We are holy to God. We are chosen and called! And therefore, we are also sent—into our many worlds.

To live with the awareness of holiness means this: I know that I am seen, wanted, and loved. And I know—God has a dream for me. A purpose. A calling. And in the holy wonder of who I am, I cannot be replaced. As John Henry Newman puts it: "Somehow I am necessary for God's purpose, as necessary in my place as an archangel in his."

The Altenberg Light 2025 fully embraces this conviction and invites you to share the experience.



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

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 mind-fulness* 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 room Goldener Saal in Haus Altenberg, which is open until 2:00 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.

Helping Out?



Would you like to be part of the team at next year's Light of Altenberg? Then join our WhatsApp info group! There you'll get all the details about how to sign up as a helper – early and without any

commitment. Not using WhatsApp? No worries – just talk to us!

PROGRAM

Wednesday 30 April 2025

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

Thursday 1 May 2025

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

Locus Iste: Choir

T: liturgical | M: Anton Bruckner

Liturgical Opening and Welcome

Prayer: Lara Schroeren and Hanna Kindervater

Good God,

tonight we stand in the darkness of Altenberg Cathedral; we find so much darkness around us in this world.

We see before us the wars and major conflicts, the violence and the social impact of the world's political rulers. We feel powerless in the face of so many who are exposed to suffering, pain and injustice. We see the many casualties and the plight of those seeking protection and help.

In the darkness, however, we also encounter our personal conflicts. The situations in which we have failed our fellow human beings, in which we have been inattentive and self-centered.

We entrust you with all our insecurities, the moments when we feel disoriented and see no way out. Nevertheless, you have chosen us with all our doubts, longings and questions and tell us: YOU ARE GOD'S CHOSEN ONES, HOLY AND BELOVED.

You have confidence in us. You give us immeasurable dignity and give us the task of living as hopeful people.

We believe that you can transform our fears, our despair and inertia into a thirst for action.

Give us your light here and now so that we can recognize what holiness can mean for each of us: Help us to live it in our encounters with our fellow human beings, at work, in our everyday actions. Let us experience your holiness in moments of prayer and in places of peace. Help us to be bearers of light who bring hope where it is dark; who live peace where there is unrest; who give courage where people are powerless.

Give us the certainty that you have sent us into this world as chosen saints and give us an open heart for your work, tonight and all the days of our lives.

Amen.

Ignition of the Light of Altenberg: Morning Mood

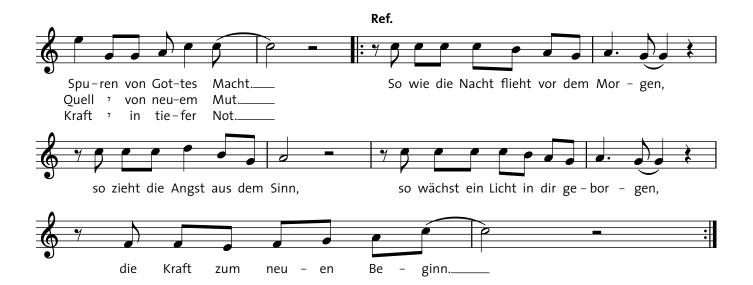
M: Edvard Grieg

Prayer of Thanks

Ein Licht in dir geborgen

T+M: Gregor Linßen





Distribution of Light

Reading: Ps. 139:1-24

O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you. For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hid-

den from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you. Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! O men of blood, depart from me! They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain. Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies. Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

Here I Am, Lord

T+M: Daniel L. Schutte



Catechesis: Fr. Tobias Schwaderlapp

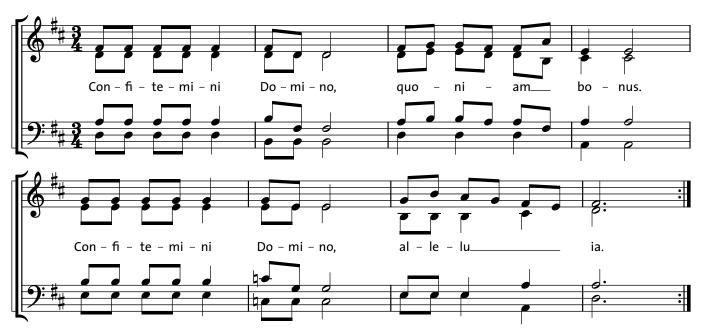
Exposition

Du bist da: Choir/Band

Silence

Intercessions: Confitemini Domino

T+M: from Taizé



Our Father



T: Thomas of Aquin | M: from Einsiedeln







Pro - ce-den-ti ab u - tro - que com- par sit lau - da - ti - o. A - men.__

Blessing

Bleib bei uns, Herr

T: Franz-Josef Rahe, Paul Ringeisen | M: William Henry Monk



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



Note for Night Owls

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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

Entry

Altenberger Wallfahrtslied

T: Georg Thrumair | M: Adolf Lohmann

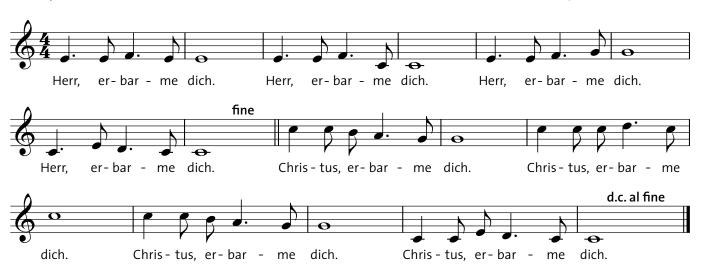


Liturgical Opening and Welcome

Introduction to the Motto: Lara Schroeren and Marvin Dederichs



T: liturgical | M: Peter Janssens



Gloria, Ehre sei Gott

T+M: Kathi Stimmer-Salzeder



Prayer

Reading: Col. 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the

one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.





Hallelujah

T: liturgical | M: Gregorian



Gospel: Matt. 5:13-16

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light

a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Catechesis: Fr. Tobias Schwaderlapp

Intercessions

Offertory: Meine Hoffnung und meine Freude

T+M: from Taizé



Sanctus: Heilig (Bergmesse)

T: liturgical | M: Kai Lünnemann



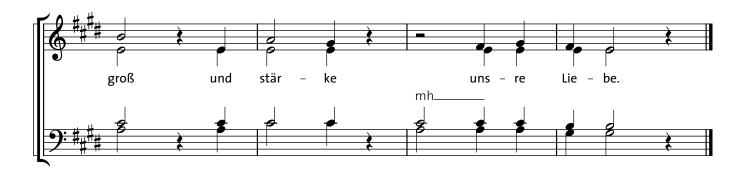
Our Father

Salutation

Keinen Tag soll es geben

T: Uwe Seidel | M: Thomas Quast





Communion

Still: Choir/Band

T+M: Reuben Morgan (Hillsong United)

Bei dir sind wir geborgen: Choir/Band

T: J. Garcia, E. Winterberg | M: Paul Simon | C: Ralf Welteroth

Closing Prayer

Sending of the Light of Altenberg

Sending Out Words

Da berühren sich Himmel und Erde

T: Thomas Laubach | M: Christoph Lehmann



Distribution of the Light of Altenberg to the Groups Blessing



T+M: Markus Pytlik



Final Procession

You are Holy: Choir/Band

T+M: Jonas Engström

Du machst alles neu: Choir/Band

T: T. and J. Enns, M. Michalzik | M: T. and J. Enns | C: S. Jersak

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.



You love the atmosphere at the Light of Altenberg? Then don't just be there next time—be right in the middle of it! Whether it's setup and takedown, liturgies or the Teil-Bar: without dedicated volunteers, the Light of Altenberg wouldn't be what it is.

If you can imagine becoming part of the helper team next year, we'd love to have you! Just scan the QR code and join our WhatsApp info group.

There you'll receive all the important details about signing up—early and without any commitment. Not on WhatsApp? No problem—just talk to us!

Whether it's your first time or you've helped before—you are welcome. Let's make this an unforgettable event together!

Join the WhatsApp group now >>



HANDING OVER THE LIGHT

Elements for a Service in the Parishes and at Other Places

You can use this liturgical recommendation to pass on the Light of Altenberg in a church service at your place of worship or adapt it as required and desired.

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 holy, you bring salvation.
 Lord, have mercy on us.
- You sanctify us humans and enable us to use our talents and abilities for the salvation of the world. Christ, have mercy.
- You heal all that is wounded and also give us tools for healing. Lord, have mercy.

Song

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, how often we feel imperfect and are dissatisfied with ourselves. But you have endowed us all with numerous talents and gifts. Let us recognize this wealth and give us the strength to use our abilities for our world, our fellow human beings and ourselves. Give us the confidence that you have looked upon us with a holy gaze from the very beginning and that we are your beloved children. Amen.



Reading to the Choice

Lev. 20:26

You shall be holy to me, for I the Lord am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.

Rom. 6:15-23

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

1 Pet. 1:13-21

since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Heb. 12:10-24

Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Luke 8:16-18

No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light.

2 Tim. 1:6-14

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Song

Catechesis

"For the temple of God is holy, and you are holy"—this is what Paul writes to the church in Corinth—and to all of us. This is a promise and a claim. God dwells in us, we are his temple. Wow! God, the infinite, incomprehensible creator of our world, does not choose the most magnificent, golden palace to dwell in, but us—me? With all my flaws, bumps and shortcomings, inside and out. This is exactly where God wants to be revealed, according to the Apostle Paul's firm conviction. God knows everything that we ourselves are dissatisfied with, he does not overlook our weaknesses, but takes them seriously and heals them by coming close to us. As close as possible, by making us his dwelling place, his temple. This is a great gift, a great opportunity and an honor.

At the same time, however, it is also a challenge. To take care of ourselves, physically and emotionally. To give the temple the splendor it deserves. So that other people feel that we are supported and commissioned by God to spread salvation in this world. Not through heroic deeds, but through an attitude in everyday life. Not through the big shot, but through the light in a lantern. That every darkness can be illuminated, that gives a glimmer of hope, that shines for each and every one of us. Let us accept this light and our holiness and, above all, let us let it shine and pass it on!

Ps. 139

O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

1 Cor. 3:10-17

For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Matt. 5:43-48

You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

1 Pet. 2:7-10

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.



Song

Intercessions

Good God, you are holy, heal and sanctify us, we pray with confidence ...

- ... for people who are sad, desperate or lonely and who can no longer recognize their holiness. Give them people who look at them with a loving gaze.
- ... for people whose holiness has been buried by war and violence. Give them the strength to uncover it again, to be healed and to arrive at a peaceful life.
- ... for people whose body or soul needs healing. Give them relief and a perspective to become healthy again.
- ... for people who are in the last phase of their lives.
 Accompany them on their last earthly steps and then welcome them into your kingdom of eternal glory.



Good God, you are at our side on all the paths of our lives. Strengthen us in this faith through Jesus Christ our Lord and brother. Amen.

Our Father

Everything that we have said now, but also everything that we carry silently in our hearts, flows together in the prayer that Jesus himself gave us: Our Father in heaven ...

Impulse

Meanwhile, instrumental music, if necessary, distribution of the light to all those celebrating.

I shine. I shine. I illuminate.

For whom?

For the people who stand up for others.

For the people who bear political responsibility.

For people who urgently need enlightenment.

For people who currently only see and feel darkness.

For people who have to decide on a career path.

For people who are committed to helping others.

For people who are ill and need a glimmer of hope.

For people who are facing a life decision.

For people whose path has led to a dead end.

For people who have lost their way.

For people who only see their weaknesses.

For people who only see the weaknesses in others.

For the people who live holy lives.

For the people who feel unholy.

For the people who carry me to others.

So for whom do I shine, radiate and illuminate?

For you! With you!

Blessing

God, our Father, your kingdom is among us, where we open ourselves to your holiness, where we firmly trust that you look at us with loving eyes and sanctify us; where we do not despair, but hope; where we do not close our eyes and ears to the worries and problems of others, but listen, are there, accompany; where we do not simply accept the darkness, but spread your light and illuminate the world with it.

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



Song

Imprint

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

Music

Young Hope Choir and Band Eitorf e. V.

Media Design

y² – 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.altenbergerlicht.de
- @ @dafuer_ @altenbergerlicht
- f dafuer.ebk altenbergerlicht



