Opening Prayers
Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that futures years shall see,
Evermore and evermore. *Hymn 82 – Verse 1*

Christ whose glory fills the skies,
Christ the true, the only Light,
Sun of righteousness, arise!
Triumph o'er the shades of night:
Dayspring from on high be near;
Daystar in my heart appear. *Hymn 6/7 – Verse 1*

The Gospel according to St. John – Introduction
History and authorship
Ancient and later sources
Structure
Logos Prologue – 1:1-18
Books of Signs – 1:19-12:50 (Seven signs – with Passion/Resurrection as possible 8th sign)
Epilogue – Chapter 21

Signs and discourses

Chapters 1-4

**Chapter One**

Logos Prologue – John 1:1-18

Logos

Word

Genesis 1

Word of God Incarnate

Logic

Structure of things

Wisdom

Sophia

Chokmah

Light – Truth – Glory

Contrasts with Matthew’s and Luke’s Birth Narratives

Not of blood, nor will of flesh, nor will of man (1:13)

**Chapter Two**

Wedding Feast at Cana – First Sign

What is a sign?

A symbol – outward and visible sign of inward and spiritual grace

Miracle

In-breaking of God – symbolic epiphany of God’s presence and action

Portent for what is to be – kingdom coming

Wedding

Marriage: covenant relationship between God and Israel

Wedding feast – Gospel symbol of the fullness of the Kingdom/Reign of God

Bridegroom – Christ as Bridegroom – Community of followers (Church) as bride
Chapter Three

Nicodemus at Night
  Conversation – discourse – Zen-like
Nicodemus
  Sanhedrin
  Return at middle (Chapter 7:50-51) and end (Chapter 19:39-42) of Gospel
Light and Darkness – Truth/Falseness – Wisdom/Confusion
  Where is real Light, Truth, Wisdom?
  Anti-Judaism?
Birth and Re-Birth
  Love
  Born again, born from above
Chapter Four

Woman at Well at High Noon
  Conversation – discourse – Zen-like

Woman
  Marital situation
  Divorced – Barren? – Dry womb – Waterless well

Well as place – Jacob’s Well
  Jacob and well of meeting with Rachel

Well as symbol
  Life-giving spring
  Place of falling in love – Jacob and Rachel

From outward light (noon) to inward light (wisdom)
  New light within – dawning of light: This is the Messiah!

Spreading/sharing Good News
  Come to the well – come to Jesus

St. Photini
  Enlightened One (Buddha)