

Night Prayer

We begin by lighting a candle. Please join me in your homes in this simple act of faith, hope and love.

The eternal God is your refuge,
and underneath are the everlasting arms. *Deuteronomy 33:27*

Opening Prayers

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

All Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord
All who made heaven and earth.

*All Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace. Amen*

The Psalms

Psalm 139

**O Lord, you have searched me and known me:
you know when I sit or when I stand,
you comprehend my thoughts long before.**

**You discern my path and the places where I rest:
you are acquainted with all my ways.**

**For there is not a word on my tongue:
but you, Lord, know it altogether.**

**You have encompassed me behind and before:
and have laid your hand upon me.**

**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me:
so high that I cannot endure it.**

**Where shall I go from your spirit:
or where shall I flee from your presence?**

**If I ascend into heaven you are there:
if I make my bed in the grave you are there also.**

**If I spread out my wings towards the morning:
or 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 will cover me:
and the night will enclose me',**

**The darkness is no darkness with you,
but the night is as clear as the day:
the darkness and the light are both alike.**

**For you have created my inward parts:
you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

**For so many marvels I thank you;
a wonder am I, and all your works are wonders.**

**Search me, O God, and know my heart:
put me to the proof and know my thoughts.
Look well lest there be any way of wickedness in me:
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.**

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia.***

Psalm 131

**O Lord, my heart is not proud:
nor are my eyes haughty.**

**I have not gone after things too great:
nor marvels beyond me.**

**But I have calmed and quieted my soul
like a weaned child upon its mother's breast:
like a child on its mother's breast is my soul within me.**

**O Israel, trust in the Lord:
from this time forward and forever.**

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia.***

Scripture reading

A period of silence is kept

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Alleluia, alleluia.

All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Alleluia, alleluia.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

All Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon)

Refrain:

***Alleluia. The Lord is risen, alleluia,
as he promised to you. Alleluia, alleluia.***

**Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: ♦
your word has been fulfilled.**

**My own eyes have seen the salvation ♦
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;**

**A light to reveal you to the nations ♦
and the glory of your people Israel. Luke 2.29-32**

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia.***

***Alleluia. The Lord is risen, alleluia,
as he promised to you. Alleluia, alleluia.***

Prayers of intercession and thanksgiving

Almighty God,

by triumphing over the powers of darkness

Christ has prepared a place for us in the new Jerusalem:

may we, who have this day given thanks for his resurrection,

praise him in the eternal city

of which he is the light;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Lighten our darkness,
Lord, we pray,
and in your great mercy
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night,
for the love of your only Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

A period of silence is kept

**In sleep may we be made new this night.
In sleep may we let go of today
and release the worries of tomorrow.
In sleep may we know you
as Soul within our soul
as Guide within our dreams
as Lover within our longings.
In sleep may we be one with you
one with earth's darkness**

**one with heaven's shining
one with each creature dying
one with each newborn breath.
In sleep may we be one with you
and one with all.**

by John Philip Newell

The Conclusion and Blessing

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
All for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.
Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
All for the night is at hand and the day is now past.
As the night watch looks for the morning,
All so do we look for you, O Christ.
Come with the dawning of the day
All and make yourself known in the breaking of the bread.

May the risen Lord Jesus bless us.
May he watch over us and renew us
as he renews the whole of creation.
May our hearts and lives echo his love. **Amen.**