

Night Prayer

As we light our candles we say together:

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

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.

A period of silence for reflection on the past day.

Pray the hymn:

**Father, hear the prayer we offer:
not for ease that prayer shall be,
but for strength, that we may ever
live our lives courageously.**

**Not for ever in green pastures
do we ask our way to be ;
but the steep and rugged pathway
may we tread rejoicingly.**

**Not forever by still waters
would we idly rest and stay;
but would smite the living fountains
from the rocks along our way.**

**Be our strength in hours of weakness,
in our wanderings be our guide;
through endeavor, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.**

The Psalm Psalm 91

- 1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High ♦
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,**
- 2 Shall say to the Lord, ‘My refuge and my stronghold, ♦
my God, in whom I put my trust.’**
- 3 For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler ♦
and from the deadly pestilence.**
- 4 He shall cover you with his wings
and you shall be safe under his feathers; ♦
his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.**
- 5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, ♦
nor of the arrow that flies by day;**
- 6 Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, ♦
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.**
- 7 Though a thousand fall at your side
and ten thousand at your right hand, ♦
yet it shall not come near you.**
- 8 Your eyes have only to behold ♦
to see the reward of the wicked.**
- 9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge ♦
and the Most High your stronghold,**
- 10 There shall no evil happen to you, ♦
neither shall any plague come near your tent.**
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, ♦
to keep you in all your ways.**
- 12 They shall bear you in their hands, ♦
lest you dash your foot against a stone.**

13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; ♦
the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

14 Because they have set their love upon me,
therefore will I deliver them; ♦
I will lift them up, because they know my name.

15 They will call upon me and I will answer them; ♦
I am with them in trouble,
I will deliver them and bring them to honour.

16 With long life will I satisfy them ♦
and show them my salvation.

***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.***

The reading

Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost. *Isaiah 55:1*

A period of silence is kept

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.
All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
Keep me as the apple of your eye.

All Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon)

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

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

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

3 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.***

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

Prayers

Our intercessions and thanksgivings are offered here.

**Merciful Lord, we entrust to your unfailing
and tender care this night
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens,
your everlasting arms are there to hold us safe.**

**Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Be present, O merciful God, and protect us
through the silent hours of this night,
so that we who are wearied
by the changes and chances of this fleeting world,
may rest upon your eternal changelessness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**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.
Amen.**

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

**Bless us this night, O God,
and those whom we know and love.
Bless us this night, O God,
and those with whom we are not at peace.
Bless us this night, O God,
and every human family.
Bless us with deep sleep.
Bless us with dreams that will heal our soul.
Bless us with the night's silent messages of eternity
that we may be set free by love.
Bless us in the night, O God,
that we may be set free to love. Amen**

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.**

**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.**