

Night Prayer

When all have gathered, the leader begins, the people responding with the portions in bold type.

The God of peace grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

The angels of God guard us through the night,
and quiet the powers of darkness.

The Spirit of God be our guide,
to lead us to peace and to glory.

It is but lost labour that we haste to rise up early,
and so late take our rest, and eat the bread of anxiety.

**For those beloved of God are given gifts
even while they sleep.**

Penitential Rite

We have wounded your love.

O God, heal us.

We stumble in the darkness.

Light of the world, transfigure us.

We forget that we are your home.

Spirit of God, dwell in us.

Eternal Spirit,

living God,

in whom we live and move and have our being,

all that we are, have been, and shall be

is known to you.

In the very secret of our hearts

you know all that rises to trouble us.

Living flame, burn into us.

Cleansing wind, blow through us.

Fountain of water, well up within us;

that we may love and praise

in deed and in truth. Amen.

Psalm 42

1 As the deer longs for the water brooks, *

so longs my soul for you, O God.

2 My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; *

when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

3 My tears have been my food day and night, *

while all day long they say to me,

“Where now is your God?”

- 4 I pour out my soul when I think on these things: *
how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God,
- 5 With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, *
among those who keep holy-day.
- 6 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 7 Put your trust in God; *
**for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.**
- 8 My soul is heavy within me; *
**therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan,
and from the peak of Mizar among the heights of Hermon.**
- 9 One deep calls to another in the noise of your cataracts; *
all your rapids and floods have gone over me.
- 10 The Lord grants his loving-kindness in the daytime; *
**in the night season his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.**
- 11 I will say to the God of my strength,
“Why have you forgotten me? *
and why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me?”
- 12 While my bones are being broken, *
my enemies mock me to my face;
- 13 All day long they mock me *
and say to me, “Where now is your God?”
- 14 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul?
and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 15 Put your trust in God; *
**for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.**

Psalm 43

- 1 Give judgement for me, O God,
and defend my cause against an ungodly people; *
deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.
- 2 For you are the God of my strength;
why have you put me from you? *
and why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me?
- 3 Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, *
**and bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling;**
- 4 That I may go to the altar of God,
to the God of my joy and gladness; *
and on the harp I will give thanks to you, O God my God.
- 5 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why are you so disquieted within me?

6 Put your trust in God; *
**for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.**

Glory to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS (HEB 4.9–11A)

A sabbath rest still remains for the people of God; for those
who enter God's rest also cease from their labours as God did.
Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest.
Thanks be to God.

Silence

Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit;
For you have redeemed me, O God of truth and love.
Keep us, O God, as the apple of your eye;
Hide us under the shadow of your wings.

ANTIPHON

Preserve us, O God, waking,
and guard us sleeping;
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep we may rest in peace.

NUNC DIMITTIS - THE SONG OF SIMEON (LUKE 2.29–32)

Lord, now 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.
Glory to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.

ANTIPHON

Preserve us, O God, waking,
and guard us sleeping;
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep we may rest in peace.

PRAYER

Lord
it is night.

The night is for stillness.
Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.
What has been done has been done;
what has not been done has not been done;
let it be.

The night is dark.
Let our fears of the darkness of the world
and of our own lives rest in you.
The night is quiet.
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us,
and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.
Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys,
new possibilities.
In your name we pray. **Amen.**

Keep watch, dear God,
with those who work, or watch, or weep this night,
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.
Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary,
bless the dying, soothe the suffering,
pity the afflicted, shield the joyous;
and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

The leader may invite the gathered community to offer their own prayers silently or aloud.

Almighty God,
whose Son was crucified yet entered into glory,
may we, walking in the way of the cross,
find it is for us the way of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,
for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.

May God's name be praised beyond the furthest star,
glorified and exalted above all for ever.

*The leader invites the gathered community to say the Lord's Prayer
in their own language*

**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.**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.
Amen.