



ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Night Prayer from a New Zealand Prayer Book
March 3, 2021 | 7:00 p.m.

The offering of prayer late in the evening, by laity, religious orders or clergy, often called Compline, has sometimes been described as the 'goodnight prayer of the Church'. It rounds off the day and prepares us for a quiet night. As the psalmist wrote: "I lie down in peace and take my rest. For it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid."

Night Prayer derives its content from the wisdom of the centuries in scripture and above all in the psalms, but also from contemporary Christian experience of God. It celebrates the awareness that each of us who tries to pray is a part of the human whole.

INVOCATION

Eternal Spirit, flow through our being and open our lips,
that our mouths may proclaim your praise.

PSALM 121:1-3, 7,8

I will lift up my eyes to the mountains,
but where shall I find help?

From you alone, O God, does my help come,
creator of the ever changing hills.

You will not let me stumble on the rough pathways,
you care for me and watch over me without ceasing.

You will defend me in the presence of evil,
you will guard my life.

You will defend my going out and my coming in,
this night and always.

READING

Matthew 6:31-34

Do not ask anxiously, what are we to eat? What are we to drink? What shall we wear? The whole world runs after such things. Set your heart and mind on God's commonwealth and justice first, and all the rest will come to you as well. So do not be anxious about tomorrow. Today has enough problems of its own; tomorrow can look after itself.

HYMN 25

O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ

1 O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ, in
 2 Now sun-set comes, but light shines forth, the
 3 Wor-thy are you

you the Fa-ther's glo-ry shone. Im-mor-tal, ho-ly,
 lamps are lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa-ther, Son, and
 Son of God, Life - giv-ing Lord; where-fore you are through

blest is he, and blest are you, his ho-ly Son.
 Spi-rit: God who dwells in the high-est ho-ly ter-nal light.
 all the earth and in the heaven a-dored.

PRAYERS

Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O God of truth and love.

Keep me, O God, as the apple of an eye;
hide me under the shadow of your wings.

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

SONG OF SIMEON

Praise be to God, I have lived to see this day.
God's promise is fulfilled, and my duty done.

At last you have given me peace,
for I have seen with my own eyes
the salvation you have prepared for all nations –

a light to the world in its darkness,
and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory be to God, sustaining, redeeming, sanctifying,
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever.

Amen.

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

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen

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

Let us bless the Earth-maker, the Pain-bearer, the Life-giver,
let us praise and exalt God above all for ever.

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

CONCLUDING 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 herald the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities, in your name we pray. **Amen.**

SENTENCE OF THE DAY

O God, strengthen your servants with your heavenly grace, that we may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until we come to your everlasting kingdom.

FINAL VERSICLE

The divine Spirit dwells in us.

Thanks be to God.

FOR THE LITURGY

Officiant	The Reverend Denise Ann Trogdon, <i>rector</i>
Assisting	Dr. Jason A. Wright, <i>minister of music and the arts</i>
Videographer	Jessica McIlwee

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ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Celebrating and Sharing God's love for all.

All Saints Mission: To be a channel of God's love.

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