VESPERS FOR PENTECOST SEASON

(Traditional hour: evening/end of the day. Intention for this hour: Forgiveness)

As we turn on lamps at dusk, we greet the evening by welcoming God to abide with us anew.

Opening

If anyone is in Christ, **there**
is a new creation.

Prayer

Creating God, your reign of love makes all things new: Plant seeds of confidence and gladness in our hearts, so that, trusting your word, we may live no longer for ourselves but for him who died and was raised for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Praise Doxology

May none of God's wonderful works keep silence, night or morning.

Bright stars, high mountains, the depths of the seas, sources of rushing rivers:

May all these break into song as we sing to Creator, Savior and Holy Spirit.

May all the angels in the heavens reply: Amen! Amen! Amen!

Power, praise, honor and eternal glory to God, the only giver of grace.

Amen! Amen! Amen! Anonymous (third century)

Scripture

Meditation

Confession

We confess that we have considered the earth to be our own, believing God gave us dominion and, thus, absolute control over it.

We affirm that "the earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, for he has founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers." (Psalm 24:1-2)

We repent. We know we need to change our understanding of creation, taking our share of responsibility for its care and protection.

We believe that the Spirit, God's recreating power, is active in us and in the world. **God, Creator of all, may humankind be freed from greed, which is destroying the earth; and may your courageous churches take up causes against the forces that threaten life. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us by the measure of our failings.

As vast as the distance from one end of creation to another, God's love for us is even greater.

As far as east is from west, from greater than this distance does God remove our sin from us. **Thanks be to God.**

Prayers

Holy One, we praise you for the wonders of your creation: **Make us joyful and faithful stewards.**

As the day grows long,

Bless us with the gift of laying down our burdens.

And not ours only:

Help us lift the weights we have placed on others and on your creation.

We offer these prayers of our hearts:

Here, the people may add particular intercessions or thanksgivings.

Create in us, again and always, your heart of grace. **May we rest on the sure foundation of your love.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

And the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer
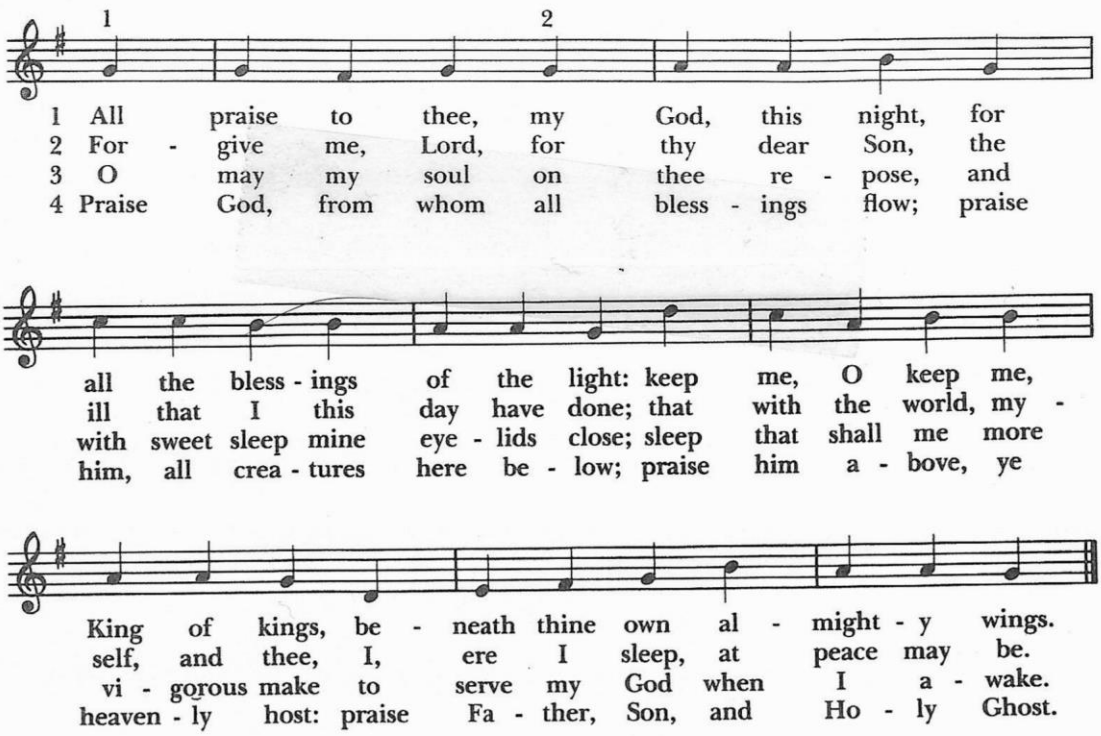
Give us strength to understand and eyes to see; teach us to walk the soft earth as related to all that lives.

Amen.

Going Out

If anyone is in Christ, **there**
is a new creation.

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This hymn may be sung unaccompanied as a four-part canon at the distance of one measure.

Words: Thomas Ken (1637-1711)
Music: *The Eighth Tune,* Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585)

LM