

## ***Night Prayer – from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer***

### ***Approach:***

The angels of God guard us through the night,  
**And quieten 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 rest, and eat the bread of anxiety. For those beloved of God are given gifts even while they sleep.

### ***Silence.***

My brothers and sisters, our help is in the name of the eternal God,  
**Who is making the heavens and earth.**

**Dear God, thank you for all that is good, for our creation and our humanity, for the stewardship you have given us of this planet earth, for the gifts of life and of one another, for your love which is unbounded and eternal.**

O thou, most holy and beloved, my Companion, my Guide upon the way, my bright evening star.  
We repent the wrongs we have done:

### ***Silence.***

We have wounded your love.  
**O God, hear 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, to the very secret of our hearts and 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.**

### ***Invocation:***

Eternal Spirit, flow through our being and open our lips,  
**that our mouths may proclaim your praise.**  
Let us worship the God of love,  
**from this time forth and forever more.**

### ***Psalm: Psalm 4***

Answer me when I call, O God, for you are the God of justice.

**You set me free when I am hard-pressed: be gracious to me now and hear my prayers.**

**Men and women, how long will you turn my glory to my shame? How long will you love what is worthless and run after lies?**

**Know that God has shown me such wonderful kindness: when I call out in prayer, God hears me. Tremble, admit defeat, and sin no more. Look deep into your heart before you sleep and be still.**

**Bring your gifts, just as you are, and put your trust in God. Many are asking, Who can make us content?**

**The light of your countenance has gone from us, O God. Yet you have given my heart more gladness than those whose corn and wine and oil increase.**

**I lie down in peace and sleep comes at once, for in you alone, O God, do I dwell unafraid.**

***Readings:***

Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who abuse you. Do good and lend, expecting nothing in return. . . Be merciful as your Father is merciful. Judge not and you will not be judged. Condemn not and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you; for the measure you give will be the measure you receive. (from Luke 6: 27-38)

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. (Matthew 6: 31-34)

***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.**

***Antiphon:* 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 it was in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.**

***Antiphon:***

**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.**

***Prayers:* Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**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.**

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.**

**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 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.**

O God of love and mercy, grant us, with all your people, rest and peace. **Amen.**

### **Evening Prayer from the American *Book of Common Prayer***

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.  
*Psalm 141:2*

Yours is the day, O God, yours also the night; you established the moon and the sun. You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter. *Psalm 74:15, 16*

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall. *Psalm 16:7, 8*

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. *Psalm 139:10, 11*

*The following Confession of Sin may then be said; or the Office may continue at once with "O God make speed to save us."*

#### **Confession of Sin**

*The Officiant says to the people* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People together:*

Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*The Priest alone says* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*  
*A deacon or lay person using the preceding form substitutes "us" for "you" and "our" for "your."*

## The Invitatory and Psalter

*Officiant* O God, make speed to save us.

*People* O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Officiant and People* 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. *Except in Lent, add Alleluia.*

*Spoken:* O gracious Light,  
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,  
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!  
Now as we come to the setting of the sun,  
and our eyes behold the vesper light,  
we sing your praises O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,  
O Son of God, O Giver of life,  
and to be glorified through all the worlds.



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, in  
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth, the  
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O



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 e - ter - nal light.  
all the earth and in the high - est heaven a - dored.

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

Words: Greek, 3rd cent.; tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895–1984); para. of *O Gracious Light* Music: *The Eighth Tune*, Thomas Tallis (1505?–1585); adapt. *Hymnal* 1982

## The Psalm Appointed for the Coming Sunday (use version in *Book of Common Prayer*)

*At the end of the Psalm is said*

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.

## The Lessons Appointed for the Coming Sunday (the two not used in Bible Study)

*First Reader:* A Reading (Lesson) from \_\_\_\_\_.

*After each Lesson the Reader may say*

The Word of the Lord.

*Answer* Thanks be to God.

**The Song of Mary Magnificat, Luke 1:46-55**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

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.

*Second Reader:* A Reading (Lesson) from \_\_\_\_\_.

*After each Lesson the Reader may say*  
The Word of the Lord.  
*Answer* Thanks be to God.

**The Song of Simeon Nunc dimittis Luke 2:29-32**

Lord, you now have set your servant free \*  
to go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A Light to enlighten 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.

**The Apostles' Creed – optional**

*Officiant and People together*  
I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**The Prayers**

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* And also with you.  
*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Officiant and People*  
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,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

*Then follows one of these sets of Suffrages*

**A**

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
R. And grant us your salvation.  
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
R. Let your people sing with joy.  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. For only in you can we live in safety.  
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
R. Your saving health among all nations.  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

**B**

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,  
*We entreat you, O Lord.*  
That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and  
goodwill,  
*We entreat you, O Lord.*  
That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins  
and offenses,  
*We entreat you, O Lord.*  
That there may be peace to your Church and to the  
whole  
world,  
*We entreat you, O Lord.*  
That we may depart this life in your faith and fear,  
and not be condemned before the great judgment  
seat  
of Christ,  
*We entreat you, O Lord.*  
That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit  
in  
the communion of [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all your saints,  
entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,  
*We entreat you, O Lord.*

*The Officiant then says one or more of the following Collects*

*The Collect for the Coming Sunday*

*A Collect for Peace* Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. *Amen.*

*A Collect for Aid against Perils*

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*A Collect for Protection*

O God, the life of all who live, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labor, and the repose of the dead: We thank you for the blessings of the day that is past, and humbly ask for your protection through the coming night. Bring us in safety to the morning hours; through him who died and rose again for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*A Collect for the Presence of Christ*

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

*Prayers for Mission*

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* *or this*

Keep watch, dear Lord, 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.*

*or the following*

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

*Then may be said* Let us bless the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

*From Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost "Alleluia, alleluia" may be added to the preceding versicle and response.*

*The Officiant may then conclude with one of the following*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14*

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen. Romans 15:13*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20,21*

## **An Order for Compline from the American *Book of Common Prayer***

*The Officiant begins*

The Lord Almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end. *Amen.*

*Officiant* Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

*People* The maker of heaven and earth.

*The Officiant may then say*

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father:

We have sinned against you,

through our own fault,

in thought, and word, and deed,

and in what we have left undone.

For the sake of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,

forgive us all our offenses;

and grant that we may serve you

in newness of life,

to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

*Officiant* May the Almighty God grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

*The Officiant then says*

O God, make speed to save us.

*People* O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Officiant and People*

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. Except in Lent, add Alleluia.*

*One or more of the following Psalms are sung or said.*

**Psalm 4** *Cum invocarem*

1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; \*  
you set me free when I am hard-pressed;  
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.  
2 "You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory\*  
how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false gods?"  
3 Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful; \*  
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.  
4 Tremble, then, and do not sin; \*  
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.  
5 Offer the appointed sacrifices \*  
and put your trust in the Lord.  
6 Many are saying,  
"Oh, that we might see better times!" \*  
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.  
7 You have put gladness in my heart, \*  
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.  
8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; \*  
for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

**Psalm 31** *In te, Domine, speravi*

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame: \*  
deliver me in your righteousness.  
2 Incline your ear to me; \*  
make haste to deliver me.  
3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.  
4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set  
for me, \* for you are my tower of strength.  
5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
for you have redeemed me,  
O Lord, O God of truth.

**Psalm 134** *Ecce nunc*

1 Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the  
Lord, \* you that stand by night in the house of the  
Lord.  
2 Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the  
Lord; \* the Lord who made heaven and earth bless  
you out of Zion.

*At the end of the Psalms is sung or said*

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.

*One of the following, or some other suitable passage of Scripture, is read*

Lord, you are in the midst of us, and we are called by your Name: Do not forsake us, O Lord our God.

*Jeremiah 14:9, 22*

*People* Thanks be to God.

*or this*

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. *Matthew 11:28-30*

*People* Thanks be to God.

*or the following*

May the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. *Hebrews 13:20-21*

*People* Thanks be to God.

*A hymn suitable for the evening may be sung. (Either "O Gracious Light Lord, Jesus Christ," above on page 4, or "The Day Thou Gavest Lord is Over," found on the next page, or some other suitable hymn.)*

Words: John Ellerton (1826–1893)

Music: *St. Clement*, Clement Cottevill Scholefield (1839–1904)

1 The day thou gav - est, Lord, is end - ed, the dark - ness  
 2 We thank thee that thy Church, un - sleep - ing while earth rolls  
 3 As o'er each con - ti - nent and is - land the dawn leads  
 4 So be it, Lord; thy throne shall nev - er, like earth's proud

falls at thy be - hest; to thee our morn - ing hymns a -  
 on - ward in - to light, through all the world her watch is  
 on an - oth - er day, the voice of prayer is nev - er  
 em - pires, pass a - way; thy king - dom stands, and grows for

scend - ed, thy praise shall sanc - ti - fy our rest.  
 keep - ing, and rests not now by day or night.  
 si - lent, nor dies the strain of praise a - way.  
 ev - er, till all thy crea - tures own thy sway.

*Then follows*

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

Lord, have mercy.  
*Christ, have mercy.*  
 Lord, have mercy.

*Officiant and People*

**Traditional**

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,

**Contemporary**

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,

but deliver us from evil.

and deliver us from evil.

*Officiant* Lord, hear our prayer;

*People* And let our cry come to you.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*The Officiant then says one of the following Collects*

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

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

Look down, O Lord, from your heavenly throne, and illumine this night with your celestial brightness; that by night as by day your people may glorify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*One of the following prayers may be added*

Keep watch, dear Lord, 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.*

*or this*

O God, your unfailing providence sustains the world we live in and the life we live: Watch over those, both night and day, who work while others sleep, and grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other's toil; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Silence may be kept, and free intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered.*

*The service concludes with the Song of Simeon with this Antiphon, which is said by all*

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

*In Easter Season, add Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

Lord, you now have set your servant free \*  
to go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A Light to enlighten 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.*

*All repeat the Antiphon*

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

*In Easter Season, add Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*The Officiant concludes*

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless us and keep us. *Amen.*