

# Night Prayer

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From A New Zealand Prayer Book,  
adapted to include elements of *BCP Evening Prayer*

*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. So we are taken over the threshold from daytime, not in a mood of self-centered spirituality, but as representatives of humanity, acknowledging our creaturehood before God.*

## 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 labor 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.**

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

## CONFESSION

**Dear God, thank you for all that is good,  
for our creation and for 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, our Companion,  
our Guide upon the way, our bright evening star.**

**We repent the wrongs we have done:**

*Silence*

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.**

*Leader:* 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. **Amen.**

## 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.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **FIRST LESSON: Sirach 1:1-11**

All wisdom is from the Lord,  
and with him it remains for ever.  
The sand of the sea, the drops of rain,  
and the days of eternity—who can count them?  
The height of heaven, the breadth of the earth,  
the abyss, and wisdom—who can search them out?  
Wisdom was created before all other things,  
and prudent understanding from eternity.  
The root of wisdom—to whom has it been revealed?  
Her subtleties—who knows them?  
There is but one who is wise, greatly to be feared,  
seated upon his throne—the Lord.  
It is he who created her;  
he saw her and took her measure;  
he poured her out upon all his works,  
upon all the living according to his gift;  
he lavished her upon those who love him.

The fear of the Lord is glory and exultation,  
and gladness and a crown of rejoicing.

## **PSALM 119:89-96**

O Lord, your word is everlasting; \*  
it stands firm in the heavens.

**Your faithfulness remains from one generation to another; \*  
you established the earth, and it abides.**

By your decree these continue to this day, \*  
for all things are your servants.

**If my delight had not been in your law, \*  
I should have perished in my affliction.**

I will never forget your commandments, \*  
because by them you give me life.

**I am yours; oh, that you would save me! \*  
for I study your commandments.**

Though the wicked lie in wait for me to destroy me, \*  
I will apply my mind to your decrees.

**I see that all things come to an end, \*  
but your commandment has no bounds.**

**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.**

### **READING – Mark 4:1-20**

Again he began to teach beside the lake. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the lake and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the lake on the land. He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: ‘Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.’ And he said, ‘Let anyone with ears to hear listen!’

When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, ‘To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; in order that “they may indeed look, but not perceive,  
and may indeed listen, but not understand;  
so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.” ’

And he said to them, ‘Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on

account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.'

***You will not do incredible things without an incredible dream.*** (John Eliot)

(silence to prayerfully collect our thoughts)

*We share reflections on the day's scripture.*

*What do you notice?*

*What is speaking to you?*

*What difference does it make?*

*How do you listen for the voice of Wisdom?*

**HYMN (spoken together)**

**Hail, gladdening Light, of God's pure glory poured,  
Who is the immortal Father, heavenly, blest,  
Holiest of holies, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest,  
The lights of evening round us shine,  
We hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit divine.**

**Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung,  
With undefiled tongue,  
Son of our God, Giver of life, alone!  
Therefore in all the world thy glories, Lord, they own.**

## **PRAYERS**

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

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 your eye;  
**hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

### **Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, by the proclamation of your Word all nations are drawn to you: Make us desire, like John Eliot, to share your Good News with those whom we encounter, so that all people may come to a saving knowledge of you; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord have mercy.

*We offer intercessions and thanksgivings from our heart  
either silently or aloud or in the chat function.*

We pray for healing for those on the parish prayer list, including: Allison, Phoebe Babb, Kristin Baird, Annie Barr, Bob, Bruna, Heather Cameron, Cathie Cardelucci, Lydia Cedrone, Mary Collins, Ann Daily, Dave, John and Richard DeNatale, JD, Peggy Downs, Steve Eramo, David Fieldhouse, Peter Foley, Claudette Forss, Connor Gallagher, Kristen Goddard, Louise Haldeman, Lester Hartman, Karen Dodd Howard, Devon Hoyt, Jeffrey, Pete Jeffrey, Jack Jephson, Jerry, Jordan, John & Theresa Kelly, Ken Leach, Fred MacArthur, Kevin MacKenzie, Keith & Joanne Manville, Mark Martino, Suzanne McAllister, Don McCarter, Becky Miller, Sara Murphy, T.A.N, Steve Newman, Jim O'Reilly, Emma Parese, Joe, Jane Pennacchia, Muriel Peters, Dustin Pollard, Tony R., Rebecca, Kirk Ronaldson, Cheryl Santarelli, Trudy, Bill & Jan Walsh, and Kelly Wood.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## Night 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.

## Sentence of the Day:

To God the Creator,  
who loved us first and gave this world to be our home,  
to God the Redeemer,  
who loves us and by dying and rising  
pioneered the way of freedom,  
to God the Sanctifier,  
who spreads the divine love in our hearts,  
be praise and glory for time and for eternity.

## Wednesday:

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!**