

Night Prayer

February 25, 2026

[Emily Malbone Morgan](#)

*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. (psalm 127.3)

My brothers and sisters, 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!

The Psalms

Psalm 31

O God, I have come to you for shelter:
let me never be put to shame.

**Deliver me in the justice of your ways:
incline your ear to me and be swift to save me.**

Be for me a rock of refuge, a fortress to defend me:
for you are my rock and my stronghold.

**Lead me and guide me for your name's sake:
deliver me out of the net that they have laid secretly for me,
for you are my strength.**

Into your hands I commit my spirit,
for you will redeem me, eternal God of truth.

Psalm 134

We your servants bless you, O God,
as we stand by night in your house.

**We lift up our hands towards the holy place,
and give you thanks and praise.**

Bless us from all places where you dwell,
O God, creator of the heavens and the earth.

READINGS

First Reading: Romans 16:1-6

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreae, so that you may welcome her in the Lord as is fitting for the saints, and help her in whatever she may require from you, for she has been a benefactor of many and of myself as well.

Greet Prisca and Aquila, who work with me in Christ Jesus, and who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the

Gentiles. Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who was the first convert in Asia for Christ. Greet Mary, who has worked very hard among you.

Response:

Hymn (spoken together)

**God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at my end, and at my departing.**

Second Reading: Luke 10:38-42

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing.* Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

Third 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.

Silence to prayerfully collect our thoughts

Consider: How does Christ feed you? How do you take that food and feed others?

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 your 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 *Nunc Dimittis*

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.**

Collect of the Day

Inspire us, Gracious God, with that same spirit of devotion that animated your servant Emily Malbone Morgan; that, like her, we might dedicate our lives to your service and to the welfare of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, 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.

*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: Geoff Blackett, Donna Boudreau, Debbie Bourne, Evelyn Bourne, Peter Brown, Lydia Cedrone, Wallie Cook, Jacob DeCarlen-Bumiller, John and Richard DeNatale, Peggy Downs, Claudette Forss, David Fieldhouse, Connor Gallagher, Mary Gasson, Kristen Goddard, Louise Haldeman, Heidi, Karen Dodd Howard, JD, CJ, Jack Jephson, Ted Jobe, Ginny Johnson, Tim Kelsey, Larry, Ken Leach, Kevin MacKenzie, Mark Martino, Don McCarter, Sara Murphy, Neil, Steve Newman, Judith Oder, Jim O'Reilly, Joe, Jane Pennacchia, Muriel Peters, Dustin Pollard, JP Quinn, Susan Quinn, Rebecca, Alison Shaw, Timothy Springer, Trudy, Vanessa, Amy Walsh, Bill & Jan, Kelly and Alan Wright.

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.**

Sentences to keep us

Christ be within us to keep us,
beside us to guard,
before us to lead,
behind us to protect,
beneath us to support,
above us to bless.

The blessing of God, the eternal goodwill of God, the shalom of God, the wildness and the warmth of God, be among us and between us, now and always.

Final Versicle

The divine Spirit dwells in us.

Thanks be to God.