



Night Prayer

A Simplified Form

Opening

Almighty God grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.
Amen.

By day, O God,
you grant your steadfast love,
and at night your song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.

Confession and Forgiveness

Holy and gracious God,
I confess that I have sinned against you this day.
Some of my sin I know—
the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—
but some is known only to you.
In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness.
Deliver and restore me, that I may rest in peace.

By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ,
in whom we are forgiven.
We rest now in the peace of Christ and rise in the morning to serve.

Psalmody

*One or more psalms (such as 4, 33, 34, 91, 130, 134, 136) are sung or said.
Each is followed by a time of silence.*

Psalm 4

¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender¹ of my cause;
you set me free when I was in distress;
have mercy on me and¹ hear my prayer.
²"You mortals, how long will you dishon-¹or my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek¹ after lies?"

³Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful;
the LORD will hear me¹ when I call.

⁴Tremble, then, and¹ do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence up-¹on your bed.

⁵Offer the appointed¹ sacrifices,
and put your trust¹ in the LORD.

⁶Many are saying, "Who will show us¹ any good?"
Let the light of your face shine upon¹ us, O LORD.

⁷You have put gladness¹ in my heart,
more than when grain and¹ wine abound.

⁸In peace, I will lie¹ down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me¹ rest secure.

A hymn may follow.

Reading

The service includes one of the following or another brief scripture reading.

You, O LORD, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name;
do not forsake us, O LORD our God. (*Jeremiah 14:9*)

Do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?"
or "What will we wear?" Indeed your heavenly Father knows that you
need all these things. But strive first for the dominion and the
righteousness of God, and all these things will be given to you as well.
So do not worry about tomorrow. (*Matthew 6:31-34*)

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your
souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (*Matthew 11:28-30*)

Peace is my parting gift to you, my own peace, such as the world
cannot give. Set your troubled hearts at rest, and banish your fears.
(*John 14:27*)

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor
things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the
love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (*Romans 8:38-39*)

The reading of scripture is followed by extended silence for reflection and meditation.

Gospel Canticle

The song of Simeon may be sung or said.

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

**Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.**

**My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:
a light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**

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

Prayers

One or more of the following prayers or other appropriate prayers may be prayed.

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

or

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

or

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, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, comfort the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

or

Eternal God, the hours both of day and night are yours, and to you the darkness is no threat. Be present, we pray, with those who labor in these hours of night, especially those who watch and work on behalf of others. Grant them diligence in their watching, faithfulness in their service, courage in danger, and competence in emergencies. Help them to meet the needs of others with confidence and compassion; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The 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 forever. Amen.**

Blessing

Now in peace I will lie down and sleep;
you alone, O God, make me secure.
Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Additional materials for daily prayer are available in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (pp. 295-331) and may supplement this simple order.

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