



Night Prayer (*Compline*)

*From Evangelical Lutheran Worship,
a worship book commended for use in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
For use with New Joy Lutheran Church's Thursday Compline during the Summer of 2020.*

Night Prayer is centuries-old pattern of prayer based on the psalms. Many of the tunes in this liturgy are also centuries old.

DIALOGUE

After gathering in silence, the assembly stands.



Almighty God grant us a qui - et night and peace at the last.



A - men.



By day, O God, you grant your stead - fast love,



and at night your song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.

NIGHT HYMN

“O Radiant Light, O Sun Divine” (#562), “All praise to thee, my God, this night” (#565), or another night hymn may be sung.

O Radiant Light, O Sun Divine



1 O ra - diant Light, O Sun di - vine of God the Fa - ther's
 2 O Son of God, the source of life, praise is your due by
 3 Lord Je - sus Christ, as day - light fades, as shine the lights of



death - less face, O im - age of the Light sub - lime
 night and day. Our hap - py lips must raise the strain
 e - ven - tide, we praise the Fa - ther with the Son,



that fills the heav'n - ly dwell - ing place:
 of your es - teemed and splen - did name.
 the Spir - it blest, and with them one. A - men.

Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent.; para. William G. Storey
 Music: JESU DULCIS MEMORIA, plainsong mode 1
 Text © William G. Storey.

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All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night



1 All praise to thee, my God, this night for all the bless-ings of the light.
 2 For - give me, Lord, for thy dear Son, the ill that I this day have done;
 3 Teach me to live, that I may dread the grave as lit - tle as my bed.
 4 Oh, may my soul in thee re - pose, and may sweet sleep mine eye-lids close,
 5 Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise God, all crea-tures here be - low;



Keep me, oh, keep me, King of kings, be - neath thine own al - might - y wings.
 that with the world, my - self, and thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.
 Teach me to die, that so I may rise glo - rious at the awe - some day.
 sleep that shall me more vig - rous make to serve my God when I a - wake!
 praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.



* May be sung in canon.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, alt.
 Music: TALLIS' CANON, Thomas Tallis, 1505-1585

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The leader invites the assembly into the confession.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or sits and keeps silence for self-examination.

The leader begins the confession.

I confess to God Almighty,
before the whole company of heaven,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have sinned by my own fault
in thought, word, and deed.
I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me,
forgive me all my sins,
and bring me to everlasting life.

**Almighty and merciful God
grant you healing, pardon,
and forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.**

The congregation continues the confession.

**I confess to God Almighty,
before the whole company of heaven,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have sinned by my own fault
in thought, word, and deed.
I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me,
forgive me all my sins,
and bring me to everlasting life.**
Almighty and merciful God
grant you healing, pardon, and
forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.

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, which may be concluded by a psalm prayer, to which the assembly responds, "Amen."

READINGS

This service is not a service centered on preaching, but on prayer and reflection. Brief scripture readings speak words of prayer and comfort at nightfall. Two or more of the following, or other brief passage of Scripture, are read.

OPTION A: Jeremiah 14:9

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*)

OPTION B: Matthew 6:31-34

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*)

OPTION C: Matthew 11:28-30

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*)

OPTION D: John 14:27

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*)

OPTION E: Romans 8:38-39

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*)

OPTION F: 2 Corinthians 4:6-7

It is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. (*2 Corinthians 4:6-7*)

OPTION G: 1 Peter 5:6-9a

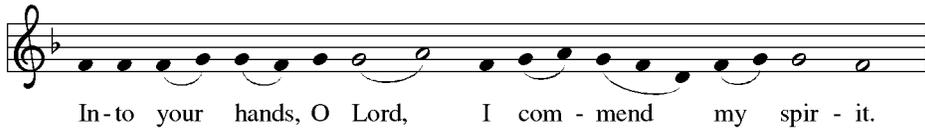
Humble yourselves under God’s mighty hand, so that God may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on the one who cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion, your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist the devil, steadfast in your faith. (*1 Peter 5:6-9a*)

OPTION H: Revelation 22:5

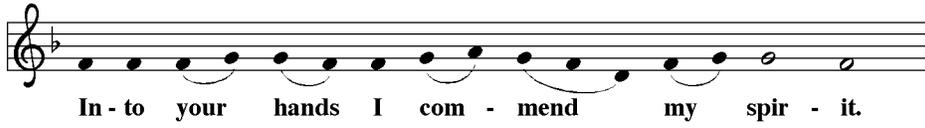
There will be no more night; the servants of God need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. (*Revelation 22:5*)

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

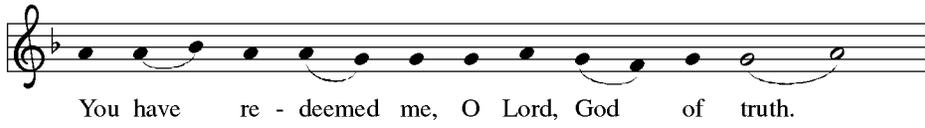
The silence may conclude with the following responsory.



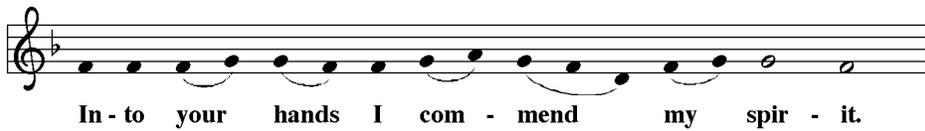
In-to your hands, O Lord, I com - mend my spir - it.



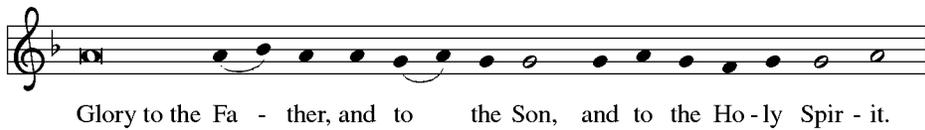
In - to your hands I com - mend my spir - it.



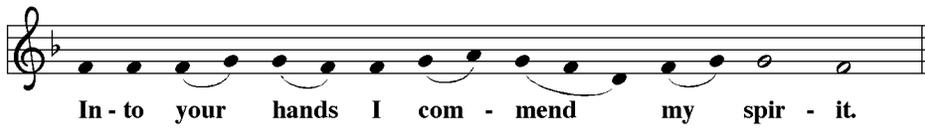
You have re - deemed me, O Lord, God of truth.



In - to your hands I com - mend my spir - it.



Glory to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.



In - to your hands I com - mend my spir - it.

GOSPEL CANTICLE

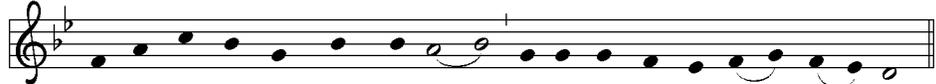
The assembly stands to sing the gospel canticle for night prayer, the song of Simeon, using the following or another musical version (#200–203, 313, 440). As an alternative, the canticle may be sung after the Lord's Prayer and before the concluding blessing.

Night Prayer Song of Simeon

Leader



Guide us wak - ing, O Lord, and guard us sleep - ing;

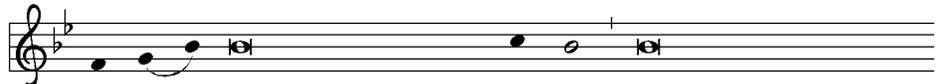


that a-wake we may watch with Christ and a-sleep we may rest in peace.

All



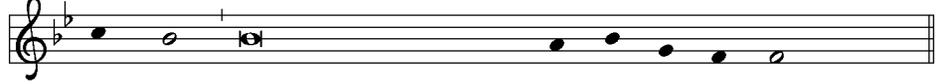
Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been ful-filled.



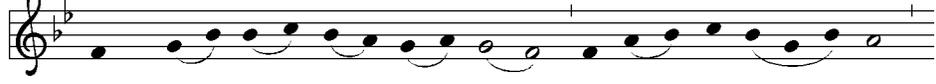
My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have prepared



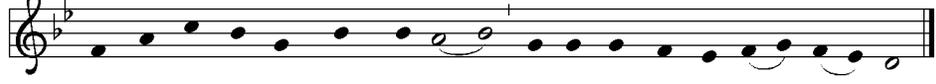
in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to reveal you to the



na - tions and the glory of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Guide us wak - ing, O Lord, and guard us sleep - ing;



that a-wake we may watch with Christ and a-sleep we may rest in peace.

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.

OR

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the day, especially for the good we were permitted to give and to receive; the day is now past and we commit it to you. We entrust to you the night; we rest securely, for you are our help, and you neither slumber nor sleep; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer is sung or spoken. The leader may introduce the prayer:



Gathered into one by the Ho-ly Spir - it, let us pray as Je-sus taught us.

All sing the Lord's Prayer together.

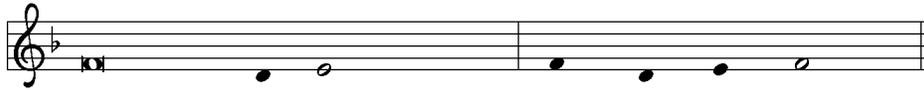


Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

BLESSING



Now in peace I will lie down and sleep; **you alone, O God, make me se - cure.**



Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The greeting of peace may be shared by all.

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