

ELW Night Prayer

DIALOGUE

After gathering in silence, the assembly stands.

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

Amen.

One of the following dialogues is sung.

OPTION A

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praise to your name, O Most High;
to herald your love in the morning,
your truth at the close of the day.

OPTION B

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.

NIGHT HYMN

“All praise to thee, my God, this night” (#565) or another night hymn may be sung.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

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

SONG

A hymn or song appropriate to the time of day or the season may be sung.

READING

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

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*)

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*)

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*)

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*)

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*)

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*)

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*)

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.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Into your hands I commend my spirit.

You have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

Into your hands I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Into your hands, I commend my spirit.

GOSPEL CANTICLE

The assembly stands to sing the gospel canticle for night prayer, the song of Simeon.

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 ev'ry 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

Hear my prayer, O Lord;
listen to my cry.

Keep me as the apple of your eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings.

In righteousness I shall see you;
when I awake, your presence will give me joy.

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

Be our light in the darkness, O God, 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.

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.

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

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

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Almighty and merciful God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless, preserve, and keep us, this night and forevermore.

Amen.

The greeting of peace may be shared by all.

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