



AN ORDER FOR NIGHT PRAYER
The Book of Occasional Services



Territorial Acknowledgment

Although we have come together in digital space, we each stand in place on solid ground that is the ancestral territory of peoples who were here long before the Europeans crossed the ocean. *We gratefully acknowledge that we are in the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.*

The God of peace grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. **Amen.**
Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

The angels of God guard us through the night,
and quiet the powers of darkness.

The Spirit of God be our guide,
to lead us to peace and to glory.

It is but lost labour that we haste to rise up early, and so late take our rest, and eat the bread of anxiety. **For those beloved of God are given gifts even while they sleep.**

Dear God, we thank you for all that is good, for our creation and 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.

**Merciful God, we have not loved you with our whole heart,
nor our neighbours as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
forgive what we have been,
accept us as we are,
and guide what we shall be.**

O God of mercy, you forgive our past sin, you strengthen us in your gift of eternal life, you shape us for glory. O God of mercy, we thank you.

**To you before the close of day,
Creator of all things, we pray
that, in your saving constancy,
our guard and keeper you would be.**

**Save us from troubled, restless sleep;
from all ill dreams your children keep.
So calm our minds that fears may cease
and rested bodies wake in peace.**

**A healthy life we ask of you:
the fire of love in us renew,
and when the dawn new light will bring,
your praise and glory we shall sing.**

Almighty Father, hear our cry

through Jesus Christ, our Lord, most high,
whom with the Spirit we adore forever and for evermore.

Scripture Readings

Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit;
For you have redeemed me, O God of truth and love.

Keep us, O God, as the apple of your eye;
Hide us under the shadow of your wings.

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

Glory to God,
Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning,
is now and will be for ever. Amen.

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

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

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.**

Come, O Spirit of God,
and make within us your dwelling place and home.
May our darkness be dispelled by your light,
and our troubles calmed by your peace;
may all evils be redeemed by your love,
all pain transformed through the suffering of Christ,
and all dying glorified by his risen life. **Amen.**

Keep watch, dear God,
with those who work, or watch, or weep this night,
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.
Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary,
bless the dying, soothe the suffering,
pity the afflicted, shield the joyous;
and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

The leader may invite the gathered community to offer their own prayers silently or aloud, and bring the time of prayer to a close by saying the following collect or any one of the daily collects.

Collect for the Day

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,
for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.

May God's name be praised beyond the furthest star,
glorified and exalted above all for ever.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last. **Amen.**