Night Prayers

 July 20-24

The Lord Almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end. *Amen.*

O God of peace, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

O God, make speed to save us.

*O Lord, make haste to help us*.

O gracious Light,

pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,

O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,

and our eyes behold the vesper light,

we sing your praises, O God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,

O Son of God, O giver of life,

and to be glorified through all the worlds.

Let us say together the psalm.

**Psalm 31**

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;

 let me never be put to shame:

 deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me;

 make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe.

for you are my crag and my stronghold;

 for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,

 for you are my tower of strength.

Into your hands I commend my spirit.

 for you have redeemed me,

 O Lord, O God of truth.

**Psalm 63**

O God, you are my God, eagerly I seek you;

 my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,

 as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,

 that I might behold your power and your glory.

For your loving-kindness is better than life itself;

 my lips shall give your praise.

So will I bless you as long as I live

 and lift up my hands in your name.

My soul is content as with marrow and fatness,

 and my mouth praises you with joyful lips;

When I remember you upon my bed,

 and meditate on you in the night watches.

For you have been my helper,

 and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

My soul clings to you;

 your right hand holds me fast.

**Psalm 121**

I lift up my eyes to the hills;

 from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the Lord,

 the maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved

 and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

Behold, he who watches over Israel

 shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord himself watches over you;

 the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

So that the sun shall not strike you by day,

 nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;

 it is he who shall keep you safe.

The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in.

 from this time forth for evermore.

**Reading**

*(One of the following passages of scripture is read.)*

Lord, you are in the midst of us, and we are called by your Name: Do not forsake us, O Lord our God. *Jeremiah 14:9, 22*

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. *Psalm 139:10, 11*

God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? *Micah 6:8*

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. *Matthew 11:28-30*

**The Prayers**

Show us your mercy, O Lord:

*And grant us your salvation.*

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

*Let your people sing with joy.*

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

*For only in you can we live in safety.*

Lord, keep this nation under your care;

*And guide us in the way of justice and truth.*

Let your way be known upon earth

*Your saving help among all nations.*

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

*Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.*

Create in us clean hearts, O God;

*And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.*

Lord, hear our prayer;

*And let our cry come to you*.

Let us pray.

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, 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.*

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

*The following prayers may be added*.

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, 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**.

O God, your unfailing providence sustains the world we live in and the life we live: Watch over those, both night and day, who work while others sleep, and grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other’s toil; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Silence may be kept, and free intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered***.**

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

Lord, you now have set your servant free

 to go in peace as you have promised.

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,

 whom you have prepared for all the world to see.

A Light to enlighten 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.**

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.

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The almighty and merciful God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, bless us and keep us, now and always.

*Amen*.