

# Night Prayer

A NEW LITURGY NO 10



*[anewliturgy.com](http://anewliturgy.com)*

## WELCOME AND INTENTION

*Breathe deeply and become aware of  
your Creator's loving nearness.  
What do you most desire for this time of prayer?*

Silence

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*We come as those open...*

***Open to God's Spirit.***

*We come as those broken...*

***Aching for Love's healing.***

*We come as those seeking...*

***Ready to be found again.***

*We come as those listening...*

***Present to Christ's presence.***

*We come as those longing...*

***Longing for God's Kingdom come.***

My siblings,  
our help is in the name of the eternal God,  
**who is making the heavens and the earth.**

Dear God,  
thank you for all that is good,  
for our creation and for 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.  
O thou, most holy and beloved,  
my Companion, my Guide upon the way,  
my bright evening star.  
We repent the wrongs we have done:

Silence

*We've wounded your love.*

***God of mercy, heal us.***

*We stumble in darkness.*

***Light of all transfigure us.***

*We wander from your heart.*

***Holy Spirit, dwell in us.***

Eternal Spirit, living God,  
in whom we live and move and have our being,  
all that we are, have been,  
and shall be is known to you,  
to the very secret of our hearts  
and all that rises to trouble us.  
Living flame burn into us,  
cleansing wind, blow through us,  
fountain of water, well up within us,  
that we may love and praise in deed and in truth.

## INVOCATION

Eternal Spirit, flow through our being  
and open our lips,  
**that our mouths may proclaim your praise.**  
Let us worship the God of love.

*Be Thou my vision, oh Lord of my heart  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art  
Thou my best thought by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light*

*Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word  
I ever with thee and thou with me lord  
Thou my great Maker and I thy true one  
Thou in me dwelling and I with thee one*

## PSALM 23

Dear God, you sustain me and feed me:  
like a shepherd you guide me.

**You lead me to an oasis of green,  
to lie down by restful waters.**

You refresh my soul for the journey,  
and guide me along trusted roads.

**The God of justice is your name.**

Though I must enter the darkness of death,  
I will fear no evil.

**For you are with me,  
your rod and staff comfort me.**

You prepare a table before my very eyes,  
in the presence of those who trouble me.

You anoint my head with oil,  
and you fill my cup to the brim.

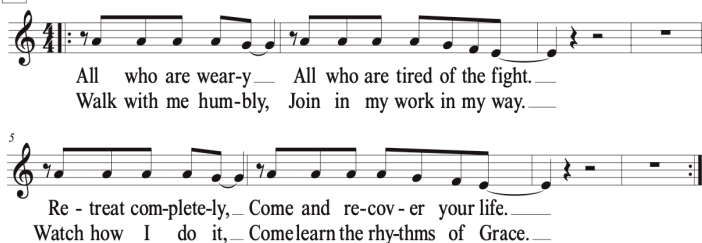
**Your loving kindness and mercy will meet  
me every day of my life, and I will dwell in  
the house of my God for ever.**

*Thou in me dwelling and I with thee one  
Thou in me dwelling and I with thee one*

**Glory to the Holy and Undivided Trinity,  
One God: as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be for ever.  
Amen.**

Silence

**A** *Christ's invitation:*



All who are wear-y — All who are tired of the fight. —  
Walk with me hum-bly, Join in my work in my way. —

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Re - treat com-plete-ly, — Come and re-cov - er your life. —  
Watch how I do it, — Come learn the rhy-thms of Grace. —

**B** *Our response:*



Teach us, Lord, Your way. — Un - forced flow of Grace. —

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Heal us, Lord, we pray, — Un - forced flow of Grace. —

MATTHEW 11:28-30 (MSG)

The words of Christ:

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me— watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

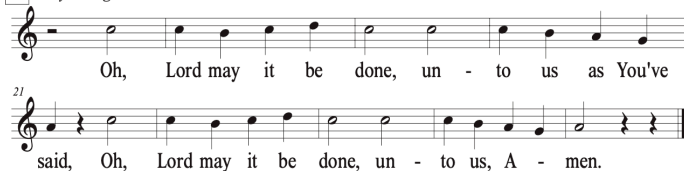
Silence

*All who are weary  
All who are tired of the fight  
Retreat completely  
Come and recover your life*

*Walk with me humbly  
Join in my work in my Way.  
Watch how I do it  
Come learn the rhythms of Grace.*

*Teach us, Lord, your way  
Unforced flow of Grace  
Heal us, Lord, we pray  
Unforced flow of Grace*

**C** *Mary's song:*



Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;  
**For you have redeemed me,  
O Lord, O God of truth.**  
Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of your eye;  
**Hide us under the shadow of your wings.**

Lord, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
**Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,**  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
**The hallowing of your name  
echo through the universe!**

The way of your justice  
be followed by the peoples of the world.  
**Your heavenly will  
be done by all created beings.**  
**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

With the bread we need for today,

**feed us.**

In the hurts we absorb from one another,

**forgive us.**

In times of temptation and test,

**strengthen us.**

From trials too great to endure,

**spare us.**

From the grip of all that is evil,

**free us.**

**For you reign in the glory**

**of the power that is love,**

**now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

*Riches I need not, nor man's empty praise  
Thou mine inheritance through all of my days  
Thou and thou only though first in my heart  
High king of heaven my treasure thou art*

*High King of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys,  
O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.*

*Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.*

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.**

*Open prayer for the world,  
each other, and for ourselves*

*Please conclude each prayer  
with "Lord, in your mercy"*

*All will respond: **Hear our prayer.***

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

Silence

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.

**Glory to the Holy and Undivided Trinity,  
One God: as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be for ever.  
Amen.**

The divine Spirit dwells in us.  
**Thanks be to God.**



*Adapted from the ANZPB and BOCP.  
“Call to Worship” and “Unforced Grace”  
by Aaron Niequist.  
“Be Thou My Vision” by Eleanor Hull.*

*Recording of this liturgy available  
at [www.anewliturgy.com](http://www.anewliturgy.com).*

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