

# Compline (Night Prayer) for Friday, Aug 1, 2025

Welcome to Compline or Night Prayer from the New Zealand prayer book

The offering of prayer late in the evening, by laity, religious orders or clergy, often called Compline, has sometimes been described as the ‘goodnight prayer of the Church.’ It rounds off the day and prepares us for a quiet night.

*As the psalmist wrote:*

*I lie down in peace and sleep comes at once, for in you alone, O God, do I dwell unafraid.*

Night Prayer derives its content from the wisdom of the centuries in Scripture and above all in the psalms, but also from contemporary Christian experience of God. It celebrates the awareness that each of us who tries to pray is a part of the human whole. So we are taken over the threshold from daytime, not in a mood of self-centred spirituality, but as representatives of humanity, acknowledging our creaturehood before God.

Let us take a few moments to prepare our bodies, minds and spirits to sit in the presence of God.

## **Approach**

The angels of God guard us through the night,  
**and quieten 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 rest, and eat the bread of anxiety.  
For those beloved of God are given gifts even while they sleep.

## *Silence*

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 have wounded your love.

**O God, heal us.**

**We stumble in the darkness.**

**Light of the world transfigure us.**

We forget that we are your home.

**Spirit of God, 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.

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Psalm 23**

Let us recite Psalm 23 together

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.

## Reading

*Silence may follow the reading.*

Friday

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

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 earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body.

*2 Corinthians 4:6–10*

## Hymn

God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;  
God be at my end, and at my departing.

## Prayers

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

Keep me, O God, as the apple of an eye;  
**hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

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

## Song of Simeon *Nunc Dimittis*

Let us read in unison the Song of Simeon

**Praise be to God,  
I have lived to see this day. God's promise is fulfilled,  
and my duty done. At last you have given me peace,  
for I have seen with my own eyes the salvation you have prepared for all nations –  
a light to the world in its darkness, and the glory of your people Israel.**

**Glory be to God, sustaining, redeeming, sanctifying, as in the beginning, so now,  
and for ever. Amen.**

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

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,  
Parent 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.

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

Let us bless the Earth-maker, the Pain-bearer, the Life-giver,  
**let us praise and exalt God above all for ever.**

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

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.

## **Sentence of the Day**

The blessing of God, the eternal goodwill of God, the shalom of God, the wildness and the warmth of God, be among us and between us, now and always.

## **Final Versicle**

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