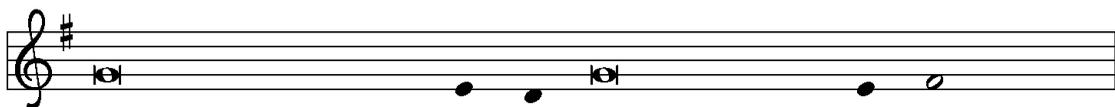




*Night Prayer*  
*Rev. Karen Brau*



Almighty God grant us a qui - et night and peace at the last.



A - men.



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.**

# Night Hymn: *Give Me Jesus* {ELW 770}

1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,  
 2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,  
 3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,  
 4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,  
 5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,

in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.  
 dark . . . mid-night was my cry, give me Je - sus.  
 just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.  
 oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.  
 and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

*Refrain*

Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.

You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version  
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## Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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.

### WORD

**By Dianne Russell**

Make me to know that ways, O Lord, teach me thy paths (v4)

For thy name's sake, O Lord, pardon my guilt, for it is great (v11)

Be mindful of thy mercy, O Lord, and of thy steadfast love (v6)

These words from Psalm 25 fit with the confession we make every time we gather for these evening prayer services. We seek to be pardoned from the ways we stray from God's ways. These words spoke to me in this season as our Jewish siblings are currently nearing the end of the High Holy days and approach Kol Nidrei and Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. In this period, our Jewish siblings step into a space of self-reflection, make confession of harms they have caused, and seek purification from past transgressions.

Especially this year, I've felt the weight of my own sins and guilt, and the sins of society that harm people and the Earth--racism in myself and in our

society's institutions, actions that harm our planet, greed that causes us not to share wealth equitably. Confession helps me acknowledge how I do not embody God's steadfast love, and how our society works against love being embodied for all. Excavating sin and guilt is painful, and yet I think it's a critical part of long-term transformation.

Butterflies have always spoken to my soul about transformation, change, and resurrection. Especially in this challenging year, I've felt re-assured and happy to see so many monarch butterflies around our house. And within my work, recently, I've been supporting the Illinois Monarch Project's efforts to save the monarch butterfly and other pollinators.

Monarchs depend on milkweed as their host plant. Without milkweed, the monarch population will not survive. And, so in Illinois they are working to plant millions of stems of milkweed to help the monarch butterfly population return to sustainable levels. It's also ironic to me that the milkweed plant contains toxins and is poisonous, in large quantities, to mammals.

The work of digging into our own sins and guilt is maybe like a monarch caterpillar chewing on the toxic milkweed. We have to chew on our transgressions. We have to dig in and be honest about ourselves. We have to enter the cocoon of reflection to have the chance to come out truly changed, as beautiful as monarchs.

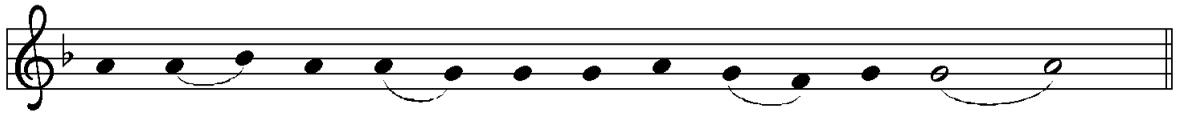
May we, especially in these days, and alongside our Jewish siblings, take the time for deeper self-examination. May we trust God to teach us the paths of true love and true justice. May we stay close to our host plant--God's steadfast love and our community of beloveds--and transform into people more capable of embodying that love and community in our world.



In-to your hands, O Lord, I com - mend my spir - it.



In - to your hands I com - mend my spir - it.



You have re - deemed me, O Lord, God of truth.



In - to your hands I com - mend my spir - it.



Glory to the Cre - a - tor and to the Christ, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

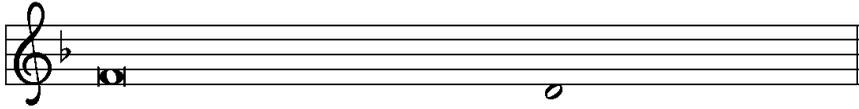


In - to your hands I com - mend my spir - it.

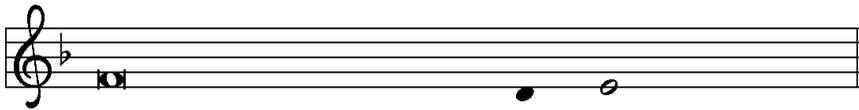
# PRAYERS



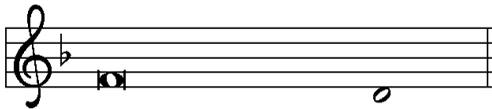
Hear my prayer, O Lord; **listen to my cry.**



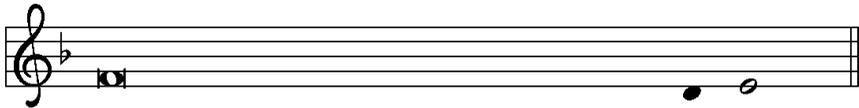
Keep me as the apple of your eye;



**hide me in the shadow of your wings.**



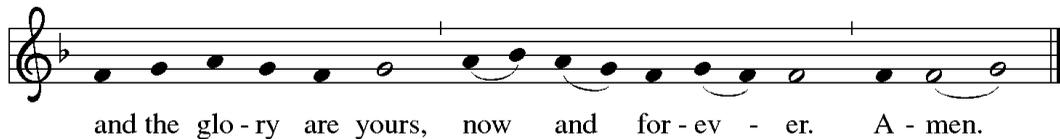
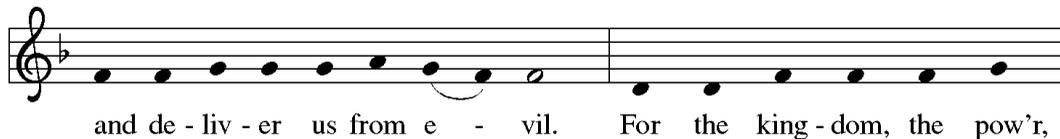
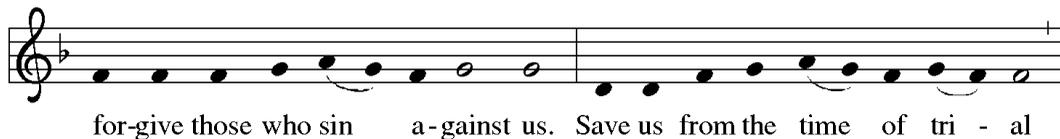
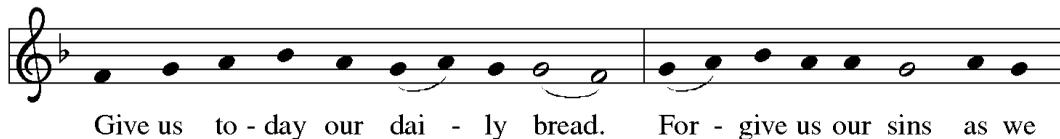
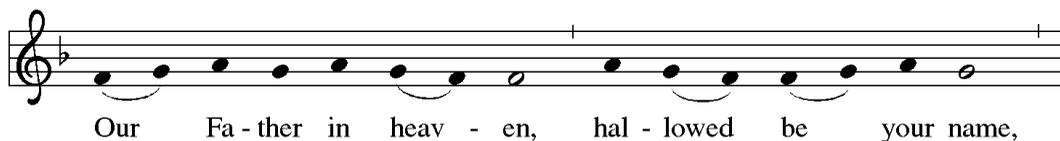
In hope I shall see you;



**when I awake, your presence will give me joy.**

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.**

The night is the cover of your peace, O God,  
the rhythm of your rest for all your people.  
The darkness is the cloak of your gentleness, O God,  
the warmth of your hand around the earth.  
In its blackness is the sign of your eternity,  
the never-ending living of your love.  
In faith we go to sleep and leave our life to you.  
In childlike trust we end our efforts of this day.  
In our sleeping, be our company.  
In our waking, be the gift of our new day.  
We pray to God, our rest and comfort, in the words Jesus taught us:

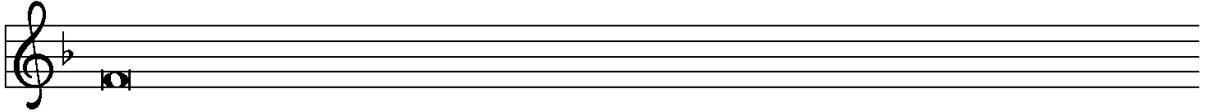


# BLESSING

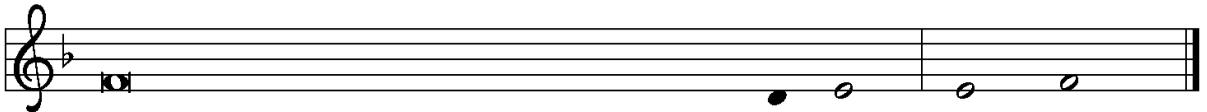


Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



Almighty and merciful God, Creator, + Christ, and Holy Spirit,



bles, preserve, and keep us, this night and forev-er - more.

**A - men.**