



*Night Prayer*  
*Rev. Karen Brau*

OPENING



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.**

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## Night Hymn

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*All Night, All Day*

Chorus:

All night, all day,  
angels watching over me, my Lord.

All night, all day,  
angels watching over me.

Now I lay me down to sleep.  
Angels watching over me, my Lord.  
Pray the Lord my soul to keep.  
Angels watching over me.

Lord, stay with me through the night.  
Angels watching over me, my Lord.  
Wake me with the morning light.  
Angels watching over me.

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## Confession and Forgiveness

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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.

**Deuteronomy 34:1-5**

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. The Lord said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord’s command.

**Reflection by Sarah Bagge**

Two of our three readings for today speak of the long arc of movement work. First, we hear about Moses on the top of Pisgah, taking in a view of the land he’s been leading the people towards his whole life but won’t enter himself. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. referenced this scene in the sermon “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop” that he preached the night before he was assassinated. Dr. King said “He’s allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I’ve looked over. And I’ve seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land!”

In the gospel reading, Jesus is talking to the disciples about his death. Jesus knows they aren’t ready to deal with that reality, but offers the encouragement and guidance they will need once he is no longer physically present. Jesus is leading and tending to a movement whose goals he won’t be around to see achieved. Moses, Jesus, and Dr. King all saw a movement vision that extended well beyond their lifetimes.

The pandemic has dramatically reduced the period of time I can focus on. Having to cancel plans over and over has made me reluctant to schedule anything more

than a week or two ahead. The urgency of helping friends and neighbors meet basic needs for food, housing, and safety sometimes shrinks that even further. In the darkest days of this winter, it was hard to think much more than days or even hours ahead. Our readings today are a welcome reminder to lift my eyes and remember that God's movement in the world is bigger than any one person, group, or moment.

During his final sermon Dr. King described why, if God gave him a choice, he would choose to live in his moment in history: "Strangely enough, I would turn to the Almighty, and say, "If you allow me to live just a few years in the second half of the 20th century, I will be happy. Now that's a strange statement to make, because the world is all messed up. The nation is sick. Trouble is in the land; confusion all around. That's a strange statement. But I know, somehow, that only when it is dark enough can you see the stars. And I see God working in this period of the twentieth century in a way that men, in some strange way, are responding - something is happening in our world. The masses of people are rising up. And wherever they are assembled today, whether they are in Johannesburg, South Africa; Nairobi, Kenya; Accra, Ghana; New York City; Atlanta, Georgia; Jackson, Mississippi; or Memphis, Tennessee - the cry is always the same - "We want to be free."

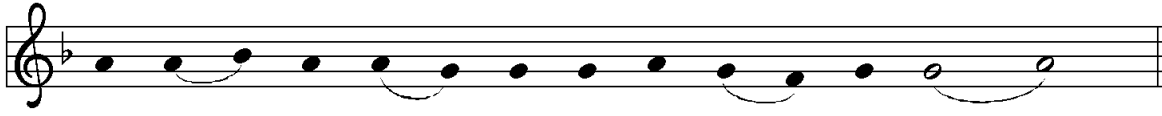
***Creator - help us to see the long arc of your work in our world, and to join our cry with all those who say "We want to be free."***



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.



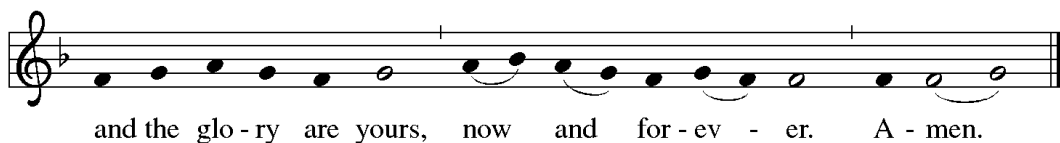
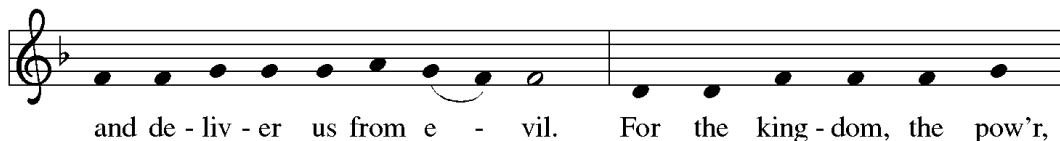
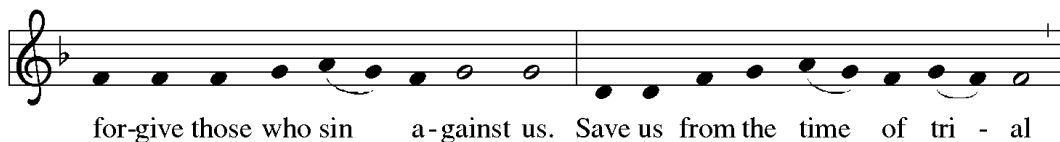
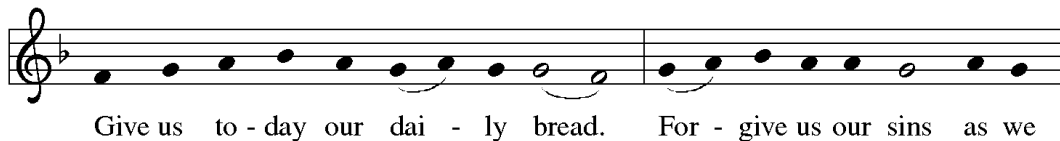
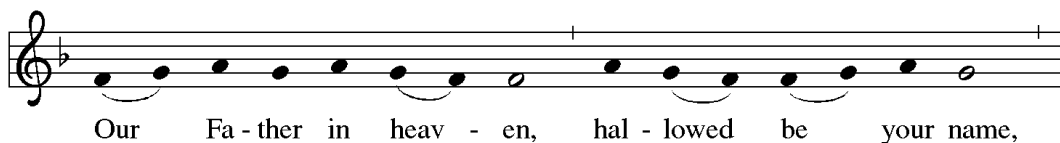
Glory to the Cre - a - tor and to the Christ, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.



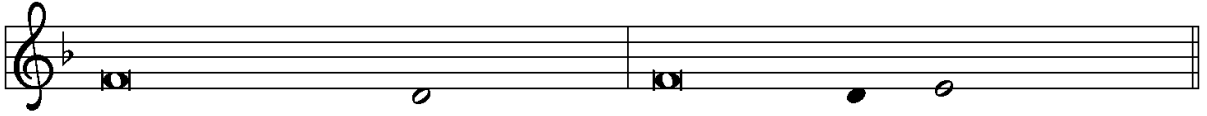
In - to your hands I com - mend my spir - it.



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:

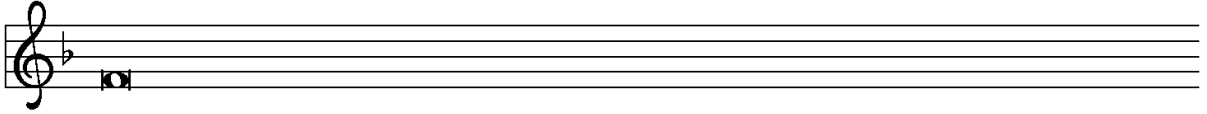


# BLESSING

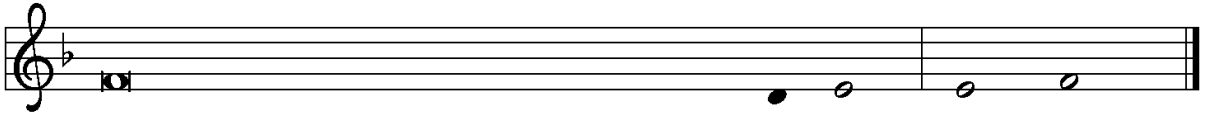


Let us bless the Lord.

**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.**