



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.**

— An Autumn Hymn to the tune of Amazing Grace —

Full soon will fall the winter rain,
Soon fade the green hill-side;
With all thy glory, fare thee well,
Thou radiant summer-tide.

Full soon will wail the winter wind,
Soon fail the flowers that blow;
Let autumn blight the buds of earth,
The flower of Hope doth grow!

What though the sunlight wane? ne'er wanes
The grace of Christ the Lord;
Amid the gathering gloom shines on
God's everlasting Word.

Though leaf may wither, floweret fade,
Though tiny grass blade pale;
Our hearts can trust a surer truth—
God's love shall never fail.

Text: Kaspar Johannes Boye; Translator: Valdimar Briem; Translator: Charles Venn Pilcher

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.

REFLECTION

By Melissa McCartney

One of my previous devotionals was centered on the verse “You have turned my mourning into dancing” from Psalm 30. In this devotional, I daydreamed about what it would be like the first time the Luther Place community would be able to be together again worshipping in the sanctuary. Well, now we know! Even watching online from 1,000 miles away, the joy and the fellowship jumped out of my iPad screen and filled up my apartment all morning. Justin’s music was brighter and louder. The singing all came from the same, joyous place, rising into the rafters of Luther Place and beyond. The sun shone through the stained glass portraits, and, even through a computer screen, they were sparkling bright. The Luther Place community (safely) approached the altar and shared the gifts of offering and communion together once again! My jealousy from missing out was only surpassed by my complete happiness at being a witness to all this community, even from far away.

Yet, even in this celebration, we were reminded that we need to stay vigilant. Pastor Karen was sick and was home watching online. The “justice” for January 6th rally brought a threat to the neighborhood resulting in a return to online services after only one week. For me, constantly being vigilant has been my biggest struggle over the last few tumultuous years. Every time we seem to turn a corner, and have a reason to celebrate, something happens to tamper our excitement. Being vigilant takes a lot of effort! Effort that I would rather be channeling into all the dancing that should be happening at Luther Place.

In the readings for this week, Matthew writes about “letting your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds.” Maybe this is how we deal with the endless vigilance. Yes, there is always going to be a shadow, sometimes a big one and sometimes a small one, but the shadows can be diminished with shining lights. In many different ways and through many different voices, the scriptures repeat this message: shine bright when times are tough and we will get through it. Personally, I’m a little tired of hearing this and just want to take a break, even a small break, from always having to wonder what is coming next. Are we ever going to have a light that is bright enough? Matthew seems to think so as he also writes “we are the light of the world.” That is a lot of light! Maybe someday it will finally be enough.



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.

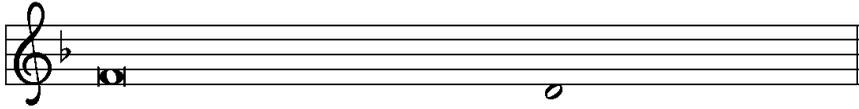


In - to your hands I com - mend my spir - it.

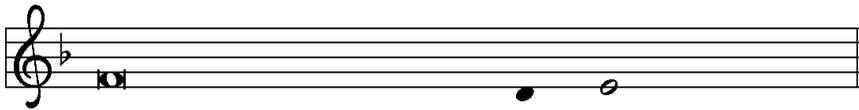
PRAYERS



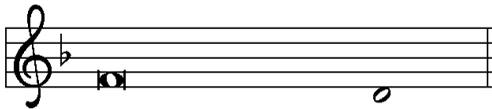
Hear my prayer, O Lord; **listen to my cry.**



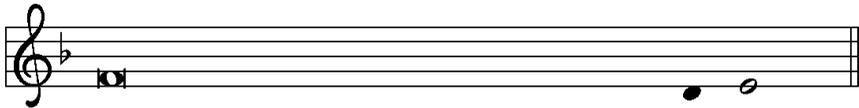
Keep me as the apple of your eye;



hide me in the shadow of your wings.



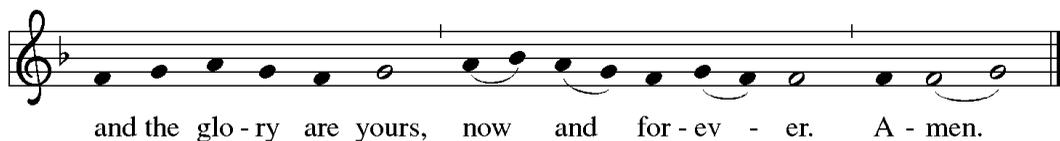
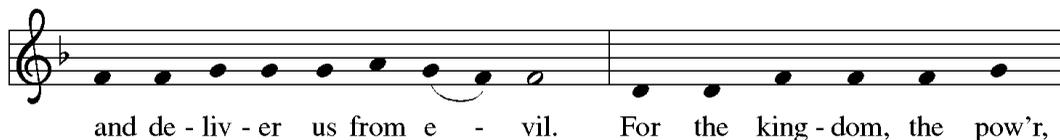
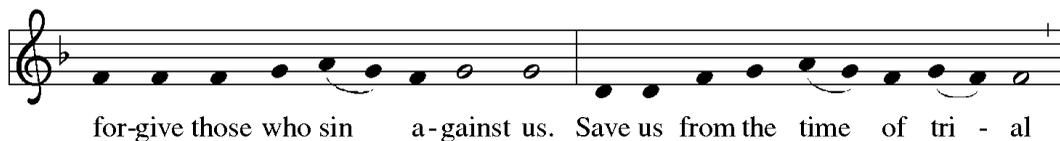
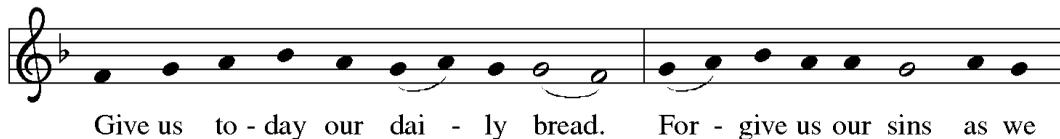
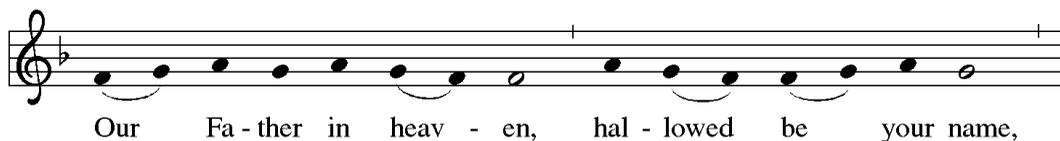
In hope I shall see you;



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:

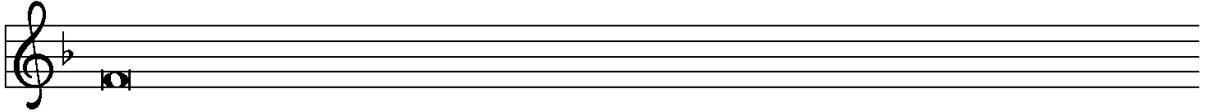


BLESSING

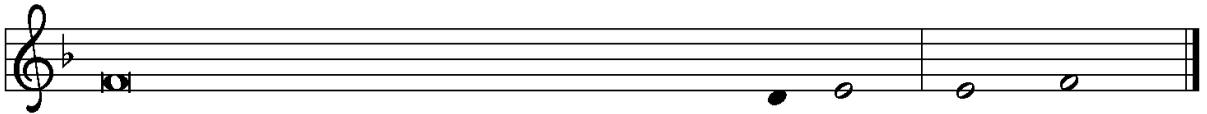


Let us bless the Lord.

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.