



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.**

Night Hymn



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . near,



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,
and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,



Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.



Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899–1993
Music: George N. Allen, 1812–1877, adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey
Text and music © 1938, 1966 Unichappell Music Inc., admin. Hal Leonard Corp.

PRECIOUS LORD
Irregular

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 Talitha Arnold

The Daughters Were Right

The Lord said to Moses, “The daughters of Zelophehad are right in what they are saying; you shall indeed let them possess an inheritance among their father’s brothers and pass the inheritance of their father on to them.” – Numbers 27:7 (NRSV)

Who do you know who needs this story of the daughters of Zelophehad?

The story of five young women who—because of (supposedly) divinely inspired inheritance laws that disinherited daughters—faced destitution after their father’s death.

The story of their courage, desperation, or some combination thereof that motivated them to go to the Tent of Meeting and make their case before the great Moses, the high priest Eleazar, the elders, and the whole assembly.

The story of Moses not dismissing the young women, but instead bringing their case before the Lord. Most of all, the story of the Lord proclaiming “the daughters are right” and changing the law.

Who needs to know this story? Perhaps it’s the person struggling to reconcile their sexuality with the teachings of the faith they’ve trusted since childhood. Perhaps it’s the mid-career cis-woman who’s hit the glass ceiling in the culture of her workplace. Maybe it’s a parent trying to figure out what’s best for their child and what words like male, female, trans,³ cis mean in a gender-fluid world.

Going beyond gender issues, maybe this story about a God who gives heed to the disenfranchised daughters can also give hope and courage to someone who's been dismissed or passed over because of the color of their skin, ethnicity, economic status, or accent.

Who needs this story? Perhaps it's anyone who yearns to know there is always more light and truth to break forth from God's word and God's ways.

Prayer

Thank you, God of truth, for this story. Amen.



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.

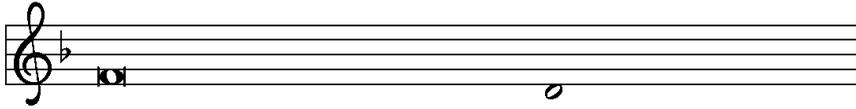


In - to your hands I com - mend my spir - it.

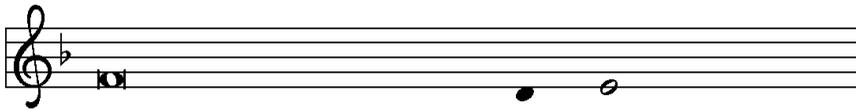
PRAYERS



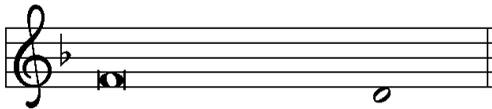
Hear my prayer, O Lord; **listen to my cry.**



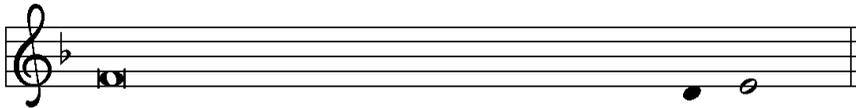
Keep me as the apple of your eye;



hide me in the shadow of your wings.



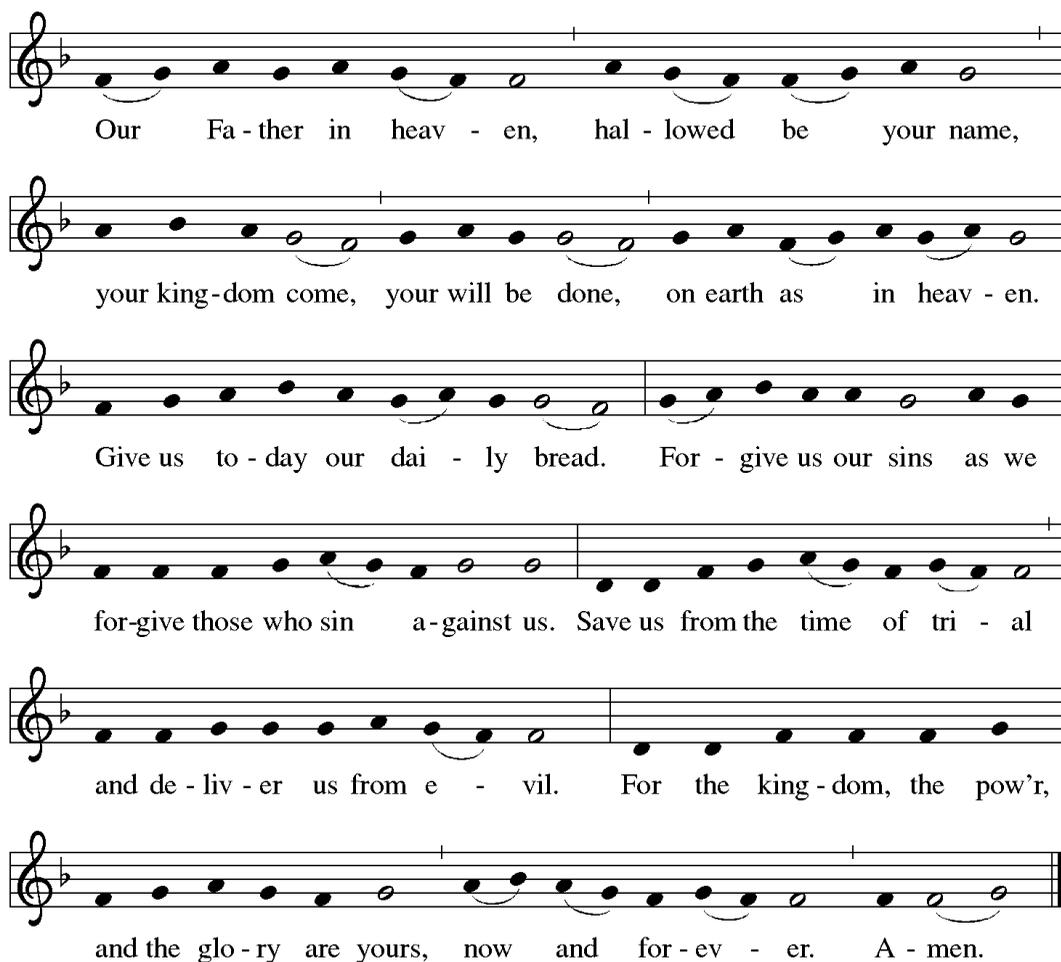
In hope I shall see you;



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:



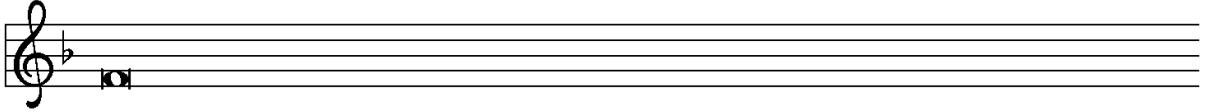
Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-lowed be your name,
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav-en.
Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of tri-al
and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the king-dom, the pow'r,
and the glo-ry are yours, now and for-ev-er. A-men.

BLESSING

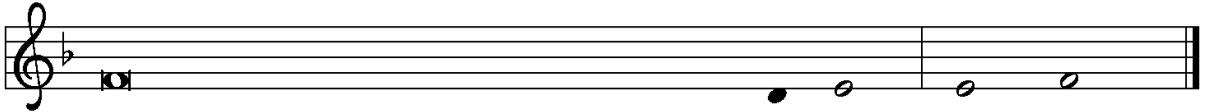


Let us bless the Lord.

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.