



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

With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the

The first system of music is in G major and 4/4 time. The vocal line begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F#4. The piano accompaniment starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note C3, a quarter note B2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note F#2.

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a -

The second system continues the melody. The vocal line has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F#4. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line: G2, A2, B2, C3, B2, A2, G2, F#2.

way. With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the

The third system begins with a quarter rest in the vocal line, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F#4. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note bass line.

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a - way.

The fourth system concludes the piece. The vocal line has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F#4. The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note bass line and ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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 Dianne Russell

As we gather tonight, we are in the wake of several new decisions by the Supreme Court that fundamentally threaten our rights and safety. Especially threatening is the removal of the right of a woman to make choices about her body and family.

And it seems that this may only be the beginning of rights being stripped away from those who have been historically oppressed—women, people of color, and LGBTQ+ folx. I have had so many emotions running through my body—outrage, anger, grief, sadness, despair, and then more anger. Underneath those currents, though, when I am honest, is a deep and throat-gripping fear. I feel the fear choking my breath, filling my chest, churning my stomach.

I am struggling, wanting to both feel my feelings and also stay centered in God, who loves us unconditionally and completely. Over and over again, in the stories

from scripture, we are reminded by God and God's messengers – be not afraid. This theme, these words, appear more than 300 times in scripture. As people following God's way, that's a clear message for us to ponder, to receive, and to use as an anchor in times like these. Be not afraid.

To help us stay grounded in God's love, especially in the midst of fear and anger, we can turn to music and poetry. So, I offer some words to help anchor us in God's care and God's abundant love.

First, song or poetry from the psalmist, today's Psalm 16. We can pray along with with the psalmist:

Keep me safe, my God,
for in you I take refuge.
I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;
apart from you I have no good thing."

And second, a poem from Wendell Berry, *The Peace of Wild Things*:

When despair for the world grows in me
And I wake in the night at the least sound
In fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
Rests in his beauty on the water, the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
Who do not tax their lives with forethought
Of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
Waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am 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.

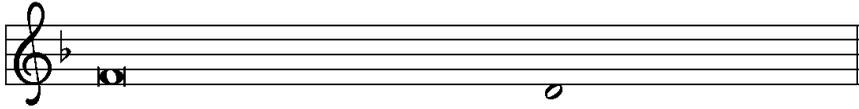


In - to your hands I com - mend my spir - it.

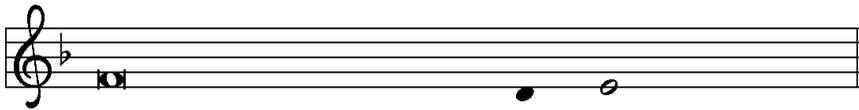
PRAYERS



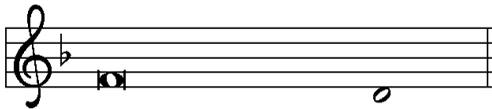
Hear my prayer, O Lord; **listen to my cry.**



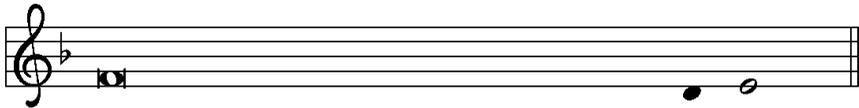
Keep me as the apple of your eye;



hide me in the shadow of your wings.



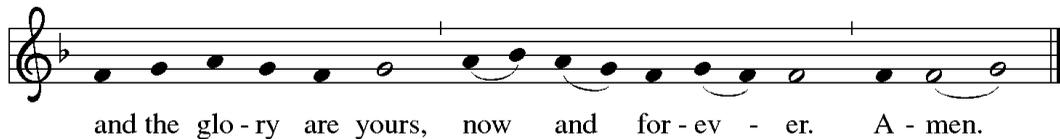
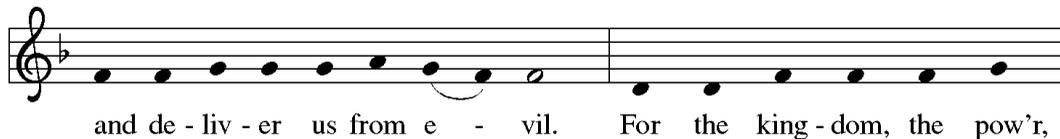
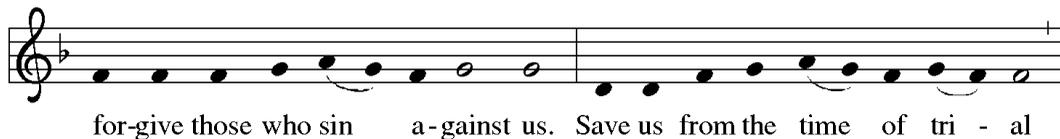
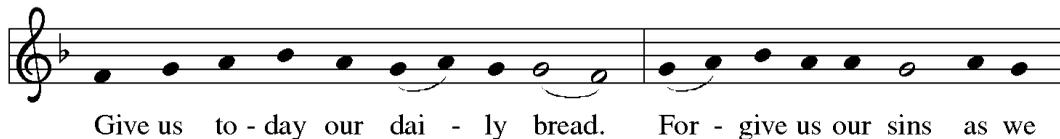
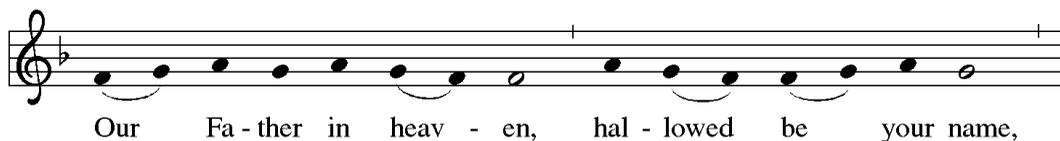
In hope I shall see you;



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:

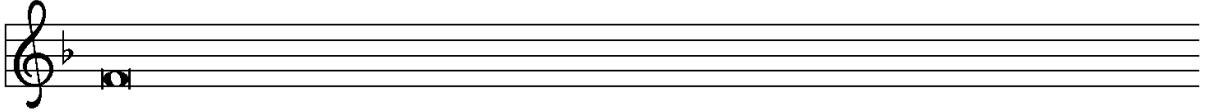


BLESSING

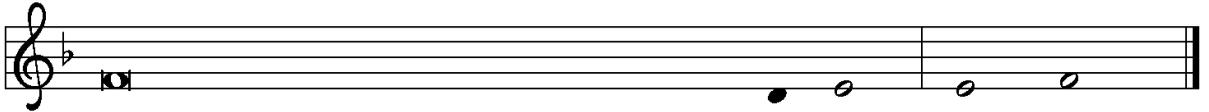


Let us bless the Lord.

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.