

Night Watch Prayer¹

Call to Prayer

All: + In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Leader: I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night.

All: We will not be silent in the watches of the night.

Leader: Praise the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who minister by night in the house of the LORD. Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the LORD.

All: We will raise our hands and worship in the watches of the night.

Leader: Day and night the four living creatures never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."

All: We will gaze upon your beauty in the watches of the night.

Leader: Let the fire on the altar never go out.

All: We will burn brightly with you in the watches of the night. Amen.²

Song(s) & Spontaneous Expressions of Praise

Call to Holiness & Confession of Sin

Leader: This is what our Lord Jesus Christ said:

All: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." And "Love your neighbor as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these.³

Silence (allow the Holy Spirit to search your heart)

All: Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.⁴

Silence (bring your sins to the cross and give them to Jesus)

All: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. (*All*) Amen.⁵

Praying the Psalm(s)

Readers: Each in turn reads one verse from their own Bible until the psalm is completed.

Reading(s)

As assigned by the Leader.

¹ Found in *Ancient Wells* by George and Hanna Miley, used with permission

² From *Isaiah 62:6, Psalm 134:1-2, Revelation 4:8 and Leviticus 6:12*

³ *Mark 12:29-31*

⁴ *1 Timothy 1:15-17*

⁵ *Book of Common Prayer, p. 398*

Spontaneous Thanksgivings & Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

St. Patrick's Breastplate

All: I bind unto myself tonight the strong Name of the Trinity; by invocation of the same: The Three in One and One in Three.

I rise tonight in the power of Christ's birth and baptism, in the power of his crucifixion and burial, in the power of his rising and ascending, in the power of his descending and judging.

Around me I gather tonight all these powers against every cruel and merciless force to attack my body and soul, against the charms of false prophets, the black laws of paganism, the false laws of heretics, the deceptions of idolatry, against spells cast by witches and wizards, and all unlawful knowledge that harms the body and soul.

May Christ protect me tonight against poison and burning, against drowning and wounding, so that I may have abundant reward; Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me; Christ within me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me; Christ to the right of me, Christ to the left of me; Christ in my lying, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising; Christ in the heart of all who think of me, Christ on the tongue of all who speak to me, Christ in the eye of all who see me, Christ in the ear of all who hear me.

I bind unto myself the Name, the strong Name of the Trinity; by invocation of the same: The Three in One, and One in Three. Amen.⁶

Song(s)

Concluding Prayers of the Church

All: Gracious Father, we pray for thy holy catholic⁷ Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Savior.⁸

Leader: Remove far from us all false pride and worldly ambition, that being kindly affectioned one toward another, and in honor preferring one another, we may worship thee in spirit and in truth, one people of God; to the glory of thy holy name. (*All*) Amen.⁹

Benediction

All: May God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," make his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.¹⁰

Leader: Let each stay in or near their own cell, meditating day and night on the law of the Lord, and vigilant in prayer, unless otherwise employed by the Holy Spirit.¹¹

All: + In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

⁶ Adapted from multiple translations of St. Patrick's Breastplate

⁷ The word "catholic" in the prayer does not refer to the Roman Catholic church exclusively, but means "universal".

⁸ *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 816. This prayer is over 500 years old and pre-dates the Protestant Reformation.

⁹ *United Methodist Book of Worship* (1964-65), Prayers of Petition and Intercession 5, p. 185

¹⁰ Adapted from *2 Corinthians 4:6*

¹¹ A Carmelite vow, found in *Celtic Daily Prayer*, p. 48