

Evening Prayer

Father God, we thank you for being our Shepherd. We know that you tend us, your flock, with tender care: you gather your lambs in your arms and carry them close to your heart; you gently lead those that have young (Isaiah 40:11).

We are confident that when we are lost, you will find us. If we are scattered in dark and dangerous places or spooked by the dangers around us, we know that you will rescue us. We believe that you will give us good pasture and allow us to securely rest in your grace. You will bind us up when we are wounded, and you save us when those who would exploit and abuse us have plundered us. We know that you know us and love us and that we are the sheep of your pasture (Ezekiel 34:1-31). You are our God and we are the flock under your care (Psalm 95:7). Because we are your sheep, O God, we will lie down in peace, trusting that no one will bother us (Zephaniah 3:13).

Because of your great care, O God, I confess and declare: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. (Psalm 23:1-4 NKJV)

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. (Psalm 23:5-6 NKJV)

O God, strengthen my heart so that I will be blameless and holy in your presence when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones (1 Thessalonians 3:13). God of peace, sanctify me through and through. May my whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of my Lord Jesus Christ. For I know that you have called me and that you are faithful, and will do all that you have promised (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

May you, O LORD the God of hope, fill me with all joy and peace as I trust in you, so that I will overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13).

To you, O LORD, who alone is able to keep me from stumbling and to present me before your glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to you the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen (Jude 24-25).

I praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me (Psalm 16:7 TNIV). God promises to love me all day and sing songs all through the night! My life is God's prayer (Psalm 42:8 MSG). Because I sleep securely in you, O LORD, I know that I will hear of your unfailing love each morning, for I am trusting you. When I rise, you will show me where to walk, for I give myself to you. You will rescue me from my enemies, Lord, for I run to you to hide me. As I rest this night, teach me to do your will, for you are my God. And when I awake, may your gracious Spirit lead me forward on firm footing (Psalm 143:8-10).

So in peace, I will lie down and sleep tonight, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety (Psalm 4:8 TNIV). I trust your promise, O LORD, when you say: "I will give you peace in the land, and you will be able to sleep with no cause for fear" (Leviticus 26:6 NLT). I trust that when I lie down, I don't have to be afraid. I know that when I rest, my sleep will be peaceful (Proverbs 3:24). I rest my heart in you, O LORD, and offer this prayer to you in the name of your Son and my Savior, Jesus. Amen.