

Night Prayer : Prayer

Introduction

I will bless the Lord at all times,
God's praise always on my lips.
Alleluia.

Psalm 4

When I call, answer me, O God of justice;
from anguish you release me, have mercy and hear me!
It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves;
the Lord hears me whenever I call him.

'What can bring us happiness?' many say.
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.
I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once,
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Reading : St Luke 18: 1-14

Jesus told his disciples a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, "Grant me justice against my opponent." For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, "Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?'

Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: 'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, "God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income." But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.'

Prayer

Prayers

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God, in the words our Saviour taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn

**Father, hear the prayer we offer:
Not for ease that prayer shall be,
But for strength, that we may ever
Live our lives courageously.**

**Not for ever in green pastures
Do we ask our way to be;
But the steep and rugged pathway
May we tread rejoicingly.**

**Not forever by still waters
Would we idly rest and stay;
But would smite the living fountains
From the rocks along our way.**

**Be our strength in hours of weakness,
In our wanderings be our guide;
Through endeavour, failure, danger,
Saviour, be thou at our side**

Responsory

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
for the night is at hand and the day is now past.

As the night watch looks for the morning,
so do we look for you, O Christ.

Blessing

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Night Prayer is on zoom. You can join the meeting from 7.15pm to chat to other people, and we begin the worship at 7.30pm. The Meeting ID is 296 467 9306. The password is 176040.