

**Night Prayer at Home,
All Saints' Cottenham with
Rampton
Sunday 18 July 2021**



Preparation

The eternal God is your refuge,
and underneath are the everlasting arms.

Deuteronomy 33.27

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a
perfect end.

Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

***Take a moment to think about the day gone
by, giving thanks for what was good
and bringing to God those times that need His
forgiveness.***

**Lord God,
We have sinned against you;
We have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing
and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

***In the silence that follows, thank God that
through Jesus' sacrifice we are forgiven.***

Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake
we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.

Psalm 67

Joy from spreading the news of the Lord

- ¹ May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine on us—
- ² so that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.
- ³ May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
- ⁴ May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with equity
and guide the nations of the earth.
- ⁵ May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
- ⁶ The land yields its harvest;
God, our God, blesses us.
- ⁷ May God bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

**Glory to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning
is now and shall be
for ever.
Amen.**

Church of England Lectionary Bible reading for
Sunday 18 July 2021, 2rd service

Hebrews 2: 16-18

¹⁶ We also know that the Son did not come to help angels; he came to help the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.

Here ends the reading.

Short talk

This last week has been a rough one in so many ways. There have been catastrophic floods in Germany, Belgium, Austria and the Netherlands, with many lives lost. In my own country, I have watched while riots, protests and looting have taken lives, livelihoods and put many people on the brink of starvation. And here at home, we have seen infection rates rising steadily and we are told that this wave will not peak for another 8-10 weeks. And yet tomorrow, Stage Four of coming out of lockdown goes ahead with the protections that have made us feel safe no longer mandatory. How can we talk of 'returning to normal' in a world that seems to be on a path to madness? Am I the only one who feels a little anxious of what tomorrow holds, who feels they have no control?

Yes, I do feel anxious. But I take great comfort from the words in our reading this evening. *"We also know that the Son did not come to help angels; he came to help the descendants of Abraham"*. And *"Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being*

tested". I am reminded that I don't, **we don't**, wake up tomorrow alone.

Every day, every time we feel that anxiety creeping in, we can return to Jesus Christ. We can renew our trust and faith in Him. In doing so, we know that whatever happens, whatever befalls us, He will be with us. And because He has lived on earth as man, we are reassured He can help us and carry us through. Our return to him can be through prayer, through Scripture, through acts of service and love to others. And in returning, we are reminded of His great love for us.

Even in the face of the uncertainty of the coming days and weeks, return to the Lord, reach out to each other, and bow your heads in prayer.

Let us pray now.

Prayers

We pray to the Lord that the rest of this day may be holy, peaceful and full of your presence:

Silence

In faith we pray

ALL We pray to you our God

We pray to the Lord that the work we have done and the people we have met today may bring us closer to you

Silence

In faith we pray

ALL We pray to you our God

We pray to the Lord that we may hear and respond to your call to peace and justice

Silence

In faith we pray

ALL We pray to you our God

We pray to the Lord that you will sustain the faith and hope of those who are lonely, oppressed and anxious

Silence

In faith we pray

ALL We pray to you our God

We to the Lord that you will strengthen us in
your service, and fill our hearts with longing for
your kingdom

Silence

In faith we pray

ALL We pray to you our God

God of Mercy

ALL you know us all and love us

and hear our prayer:

keep us in the eternal fellowship of Jesus

Christ our Saviour

Amen

Final Prayer

In darkness and in light
In trouble and in joy,
Help us, heavenly Father
To trust your love,
To serve your purpose.
And to praise your name
Through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen.

Be present, O merciful God,
and protect us
through the silent hours of this night,
so that we who are wearied
by the changes and chances
of this fleeting world,
may rest upon your eternal changelessness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Collect for Night Prayer

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;
may Your holy angels dwell with us
and guard us in peace,
and may Your blessing be always upon us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Conclusion

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

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

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.

Amen.



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