

A simple Night Prayer for Passiontide

Opening

May the Lord almighty grant us a quiet and restful night.
All **Amen.**

Servant of God, remember
the stream your soul bedewing,
the grace that came upon you
anointing and renewing.

When kindly slumber calls you,
Upon your bed reclining,
Then trace the cross of Jesus,
Your heart and forehead signing.

The Cross dissolves the darkness,
and drives away temptation;
it calms the wavering spirit
by quiet consecration.

Prudentius, 4th cent.

Reading

Either, In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and trust shall be your strength.

Isaiah 30.1

Or, Lord, you are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name. Leave us not, O Lord our God.

Jeremiah 14.9

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.
All **For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.**

Nunc dimittis

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

A light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

Luke 2.29–32

All **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.

Prayers

We will lie down and take our rest.
All **For you alone, O Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

Visit, O Lord, our home,
and drive away the snares of the enemy;
may the angels preserve us in peace,
and your blessing be upon us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **Amen.**

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 upon us and give us rest.
All **Amen.**

Prayers at the Foot of the Cross

The household gathers around a cross or crucifix. It may be mounted upright or laid on the ground. Lights may be burning around it.

A leader says

On the cross, Jesus offered himself to the Father for the whole world. At the foot of his cross, we join our prayers with his.

All We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
**because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.**

All **Holy God,
Holy and strong,
Holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

While silence is kept, or appropriate hymns or chants are sung, any of those present may come forward to touch the cross. They may, for example, place their forehead on it as a sign of entrusting to God, in union with Christ and his suffering, their own burdens as well as those of others.

Other prayers may be offered.

Then the leader prays:

Almighty Father,
look with mercy on this your family
for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed
and given up into the hands of sinners
and to suffer death upon the cross;
who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer is said.

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,

(or) Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be 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.

and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

May the life-giving cross be the source of all our joy and peace.
All **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Welcoming the Light: a simple domestic celebration for Holy Saturday night

A member of the household holds a large lighted candle in the front doorway of the home as others assemble indoors. The electric lights are dimmed or switched off. The candle-bearer then knocks on the door when the household has gathered and with a loud voice says:

Lift up your heads, O gates;
Lift them high, O everlasting doors;
And the King of glory shall come in.

From inside the house the reply comes:

Who is the King of glory?

The candle bearer says:

The Lord strong and mighty,
The Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O gates;
Lift them high, O everlasting doors;
And the King of glory shall come in.

The question is asked again:

Who is he, this King of glory?

And the answer is given:

The Lord of hosts,
He is the King of glory.

Psalm 24.7-10

The candle-bearer enters the hall and smaller candles may be lit from the large candle, as the candle-bearer says:

May Christ, the true, the only light
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

Christ is risen from the dead: by his death he has destroyed death
and raises us to newness of life. Alleluia!

The light may then be taken to the different rooms in the house, and a suitable acclamation may be said in each room.

In the kitchen or dining room:

Come, risen Lord, come and be our guest!

In a bedroom:

To you, O Lord, darkness and light are both alike; protect us through the silent hours of the night.

The household returns to the hall or living room to pray together.

The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer:

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.	(or)	Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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.
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A leader prays

God of glory,
by raising your Son
from the dark caverns of death,
a new light has dawned,
and life is everywhere restored;
Kindle in us, and in the
hearts of all your people
the love that never dies,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord, Alleluia, alleluia.

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Lighting a Candle on Easter Morning

At dawn or early on Easter morning, the household gathers together.

As a candle is lit, all may join in praying:

**Christ yesterday and today,
the beginning and the end,
Alpha and Omega,
all time belongs to him,
and all ages;
to him be glory and power,
through every age and for ever. Amen.**