

Night Prayer

Here at the end of the day,
In the stillness of the night I pray.
My Lord, you created me, and you know me.
I am your child.

Psalm 119:49-72 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

- 49** Remember your word to your servant,
in which you have made me hope.
- 50** This is my comfort in my distress,
that your promise gives me life.
- 51** The arrogant utterly deride me,
but I do not turn away from your law.
- 52** When I think of your ordinances from of old,
I take comfort, O Lord.
- 53** Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked,
those who forsake your law.
- 54** Your statutes have been my songs
wherever I make my home.
- 55** I remember your name in the night, O Lord,
and keep your law.
- 56** This blessing has fallen to me,
For I have kept your precepts.
- 57** The Lord is my portion;
I promise to keep your words.
- 58** I implore your favor with all my heart;
be gracious to me according to your promise.
- 59** When I think of your ways,
I turn my feet to your decrees;
- 60** I hurry and do not delay
to keep your commandments.
- 61** Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me,
I do not forget your law.

- 62 At midnight I rise to praise you,
because of your righteous ordinances.
- 63 I am a companion of all who fear you,
of those who keep your precepts.
- 64 The earth, O Lord, is full of your steadfast love;
teach me your statutes.
- 65 You have dealt well with your servant,
O Lord, according to your word.
- 66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge,
for I believe in your commandments.
- 67 Before I was humbled, I went astray,
but now I keep your word.
- 68 You are good and do good;
teach me your statutes.
- 69 The arrogant smear me with lies,
but with my whole heart I keep your precepts.
- 70 Their hearts are fat and gross,
but I delight in your law.
- 71 It is good for me that I was humbled,
so that I might learn your statutes.
- 72 The law of your mouth is better to me
than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

A moment of prayer – kneel, sit, be comfortable in the presence of the Lord:

My Creator,
The day is over and the shadows of night fall softly around me.
I thank you for the many blessings of the day,
For the people I have met
And the good friends who have helped me on my way,
For the special moments of joy which have made my heart glad,
And for giving me the opportunity to show your love to others.
My gracious God,
I long to serve you aright.
I am truly sorry for those moments where I failed you.
Forgive me,
That I may lay down this night in peace.
Amen.

The Blessing

May the peace of the night enfold me,
So that I may be bathed in love.

(As you say the next three lines you may wish to sign yourself with the sign of the cross.)

The love of the Father who made me,
The love of the Son who died for me,
The love of the Spirit who dwells within me,
Bless me and keep me.
Amen.

The Invocation

May heaven come close as I sleep this night,
And angels surround me with Christ's pure light.
Amen. Amen.

Source: *A Celtic Liturgy* by Pat Robson, pg. 37-38, 2000. Published by Harper Collins *Religious*