

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF LOUISIANA

Compline: Prayer at the Close of Day

In prayer after the violence in Minneapolis, and for the peace of the world

(Pre-recorded service)

Officiant: The Rt. Rev. Shannon Duckworth

Reflection: Bishop-elect Antonio J. Gallardo (Diocese of Los Angeles)

Music: Maria Curry (St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Baton Rouge)

Cantor: Ana Hernández

Why we gather: Minneapolis is on our hearts tonight, but we are also praying into a larger crisis: the steady dehumanization of people made in God's image. In this night prayer we bring our grief and our anger, our fear and our hope – asking God to convert what is hard in us and lead us into the way of peace: the way of love.

A note about Compline: Compline is the Church's night prayer – simple, quiet, and steady. You are invited to pray aloud where you see **All**, and to keep silence where indicated.

THE OPENING

(A candle may be lit. Silence is kept.)

Officiant: The Lord Almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end.

All: Amen.

Officiant: Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

All: The maker of heaven and earth.

Officiant:

Let us pray in the stillness of this night –
with Minneapolis on our hearts,
and with every place where human beings are treated as less than human.
We pray for peace – not the thin peace of silence,
but the deep peace of love: love that tells the truth, protects the vulnerable,
and refuses to dehumanize.

(Silence is kept.)

Officiant:

God of mercy, be near to us.

Quiet what is frantic in us; strengthen what is tender.

Hold those who cannot sleep because the world feels unsafe.

Speak your peace into our streets and homes, into every place where fear and violence are stealing dignity and life—

and make us instruments of your healing;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PSALM

Psalm 31:1–5 (*said slowly or chanted*)

1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.

2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, O God of truth.

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

(Silence is kept.)

THE READING

Reader: A Reading from the Second Letter to the Corinthians.

“We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair...”

2 Corinthians 4:8–9

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

(Silence is kept.)

REFLECTION

A reflection from Bishop-elect Gallardo of the Diocese of Los Angeles.

(Silence is kept.)

THE SUFFRAGES

V. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;

R. For you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.

V. Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of your eye;

R. Hide us under the shadow of your wings.

Officiant: Lord, have mercy.

Assembly: Christ, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYERS

Officiant: Let us pray.

Leader: For those who mourn tonight, and for those who feel the world has turned dangerous —

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: For Minneapolis: for neighbors, leaders, first responders, advocates, and organizers —

for wisdom, restraint, courage, and compassion —

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: For those who are targeted, scapegoated, threatened, or forgotten — and for all who carry trauma in their bodies —

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the Church: that we would speak the truth in love, and practice a peace that seeks justice and dignity for every person —

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: For those who cannot sleep, those working through the night, and those who are alone —

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

(Silence is kept.)

Officiant:

God of the night, receive the prayers we cannot fully speak.
Hold your children in mercy.
Turn us from despair, and turn us toward your repairing love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(SUNG IN SPANISH)*

Officiant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray:

Cantor (sings):

Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,
santificado sea tu Nombre,
venga tu reino,
hágase tu voluntad,
en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas,
como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en la tentación
y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo el poder y la gloria,
por siempre y para siempre. Amén.

THE CONCLUSION

Officiant:

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night;
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.
Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying,
soothe the suffering, have pity on the afflicted, shield the joyful;
and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

Officiant:

May the God of peace guard your heart and mind.
May Christ give you rest.
May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for the work of love.
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
All: Amen.

SONG OF SIMEON *(Nunc Dimittis)*

Maria (sings).

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

(Silence is kept as the service ends.)

Postlude (over the ending silence / fade out):

Maria (sings): *All Shall Be Well/ Another World*