

COMMENT: HYMN for PROTECTION and PEACE

The two verses of this hymn are rhyming versions of the two very beautiful, much-loved and ancient evening prayers printed below.

The first is for Protection - and is usually known as the Prayer of the Angel Guard - and the second prayer is for Peace.

**Visit, we beseech thee, O Lord, this place,
and drive far from it all the snares of the enemy;
may thy holy angels dwell herein to preserve us in peace;
and may thy blessing be upon us evermore...**

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

Neither of the hymn verses need be sung, for both can simply be *said* as prayers. Their verse-form may make them easier to learn by heart than the original prayers.

As the same prayers should not be said twice on the same occasion, the hymn would *not* be suitable on an occasion when the original prayers were already being said, e.g. the service called *Compline/Night Prayer*.

The verses – said or sung - could, of course, be used to *replace* the original prayers.

The first prayer for Protection need not be confined to the evening, but can – and should - be used widely.

HYMN – For PROTECTION and PEACE

Metre - **8.7.8.7.**

There is a wide range of tunes to this metre that are suitable:
among them are *All for Jesus*, *Cross of Jesus*, *Laus Deo*, *St. Andrew*,
St. Oswald, *Stuttgart*, and *Waltham* (Albert's, not Monk's)
Perhaps *Waltham* (by H. Albert) is the most gentle.

- 1. Lord, we ask that you would visit
us in answer to our prayers;
may your Angel Guard bring peace, and
drive away all evil's snares.**

- 2. This night, Lord, if we are wakeful
may our watch with Christ increase;
while we sleep may you so guard us
that in him we rest in peace.**