



May the God of peace...equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight.

— Prayer from An Order for Compline,  
*The Book of Common Prayer*

My wife and I have a practice of saying Compline as we retire for the night, which serves to frame the day—a prayerful practice which is special in the life of the cathedral I serve. To keep things from becoming rote, we change up the version of Compline we use from time to time.

There is a beautiful and simple prayer near the opening of the Church of New Zealand's Order for Compline that offers a portal into all that follows:

*Dear God,  
thank you for all that is good,  
for our creation and our humanity,  
for the stewardship you have given us of this planet earth,  
for the gifts of life and of one another,  
for your love which is unbounded and eternal.*

It is a litany, really—a comprehensive list of what we can claim as gifts, having been received by us for a purpose as we strive to live our lives in relation to God and the goodness that flows from God through us and into the world.

The rest of Compline—indeed, the rest of life in general—is an invitation to consider what to do with those gifts.

— **Steven L. Thomason**