

Ma'ariv Aravim **Acknowledging God as Day Changes to Night**

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of time and space, who with the Divine word brings on evening, with wisdom opens the gates of the heavens, with understanding changes the divisions of days and of seasons and orders the stars in the sky, according to Your will. You create day and night, rolling light away from darkness and darkness away from light. You retire the day and bring the night, and distinguish between day and night. Adonai Tzeva'ot, God of Hosts, is the Divine's name. Ever-living, established, and sustaining God, may you rule over us constantly and forever. Blessed are You, Adonai, who brings the nights.

Rabbi Andre Unger

Beloved are You, eternal God,
by whose design the evening falls,
by whose command dimensions open up
and aeons pass away and stars spin in their orbits.
You set the rhythms of day and night;
the alternation of light and darkness
sings Your creating word.
In rising sun and in spreading dusk,
Creator of all, You are made manifest.
Eternal, everlasting God,
may we always be aware of Your dominion.
Beloved are You, Adonai, for this hour of nightfall.

-- quoted in *Siddur Sim Shalom For Shabbat and Festivals*, Rabbi Jules Harlow, editor.

Rabbi Hershel Matt

Not by mere chance have we lived through another day,
The days do not just pass.
It is God, Creator of the heavenly bodies,
Who causes days and nights and months and years to pass,
And allows us safely to pass through them.

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The sun has set, and night has come.
Let us praise God
"Who by His mere word created the heavens,
And by the breath of His mouth, their whole array.
Fixed laws and times He set for them,
That they not deviate from their set task.
They rejoice and delight
To do the will of their Creator."

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How good it is to know,
Each time the sun goes down,
That it will rise again,
And set again, and rise again,
With unfailing regularity,
In accordance with the will of the Creator,
From the very beginning –
Marking our passage
Through the weeks and months,
The seasons and the years.

As Scripture assures and reassures:
“So long as earth endures –
Seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,
Summer and winter, day and night,
Shall never cease.”

– Rabbi Hershel Matt, *Walking Humbly With God: The Life and Writings of Rabbi Hershel Jonah Matt*, Daniel C. Matt, editor.