

*“Stay with us,  
for it is towards evening,  
and the day is now far spent ” (Lk 24:29).*

*Stay with us, Lord, keep us company,  
even though we have not always recognized you.*

*Stay with us, because all around us the shadows are deepening, and you are the Light;  
discouragement is eating its way into our hearts:  
make them burn with the certainty of Easter.*

*We are tired of the journey, but you comfort us in the breaking of bread,  
so that we are able to proclaim to our brothers and sisters that you have truly risen  
and have entrusted us with the mission of being witnesses of your resurrection.*

*Stay with us, Lord, when mists of doubt, weariness or difficulty  
rise up around our Catholic faith;  
you are Truth itself, you are the one who reveals the Father to us:  
enlighten our minds with your word,  
and help us to experience the beauty of believing in you.*

*Remain in our families, enlighten them in their doubts, sustain them in their difficulties,  
console them in their sufferings and in their daily labors,  
when around them shadows build up which threaten their unity and their natural identity.*

*You are Life itself: remain in our homes,  
so that they may continue to be nests where human life is generously born,  
where life is welcomed, loved and respected from conception to natural death.*

*Remain, Lord, with those in our societies who are most vulnerable;  
remain with the poor and the lowly, with indigenous peoples and Afro-Americans,  
who have not always found space and support to express the richness of their culture  
and the wisdom of their identity.*

*Remain, Lord, with our children and with our young people,  
who are the hope and the treasure of our Continent,  
protect them from so many snares that attack their innocence  
and their legitimate hopes.*

*O Good Shepherd, remain with our elderly and with our sick.  
Strengthen them all in faith,  
so that they may be your disciples and missionaries!*

Amen †

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