

THE EYES of GOD ARE ALWAYS UPON US

I have loved you with an everlasting love;

I have called you and you are Mine.

Jeremiah 31: 3

PRESENCE OF GOD

We pause and remember that we continually move and have our being through the good and gracious God Who is always with us. In the name of our Father Who is Creator, in the name of Jesus our Brother Who is our Redeemer, and in the name of the Spirit most Holy Who calls us to holiness, to life and to creativity. All honor and praise to You forever.

PSALM 120

The Guardian of the people

I shall lift my eyes to the hills:

where is my help to come from?

My help will come from the Lord,

Who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip:

He will not doze, your Guardian.

**Behold, He will not doze or sleep,
the Guardian of Israel.**

**The Lord is your Guardian, the Lord is your
Shade;**

He is at your right hand.

**By day the sun will not strike you;
nor the moon by night.**

**The Lord will guard you from all harm;
the Lord will guard your life.**

**The Lord will guard your coming and your going
both now and forever.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

HYMN: ON EAGLES WINGS

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,

Who abide in His shadow for life,

Say to the Lord, "My Refuge,

My Rock in Whom I trust."



Refrain:

**And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His Hand.**

**The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear;
Under His Wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield. (REFRAIN)**

**You need not fear the terror of the night,
Nor the arrow that flies by day,
Though thousands fall about you,
Near you it shall not come. (REFRAIN)**

**For to His angels He's given a command,
To guard you in all of your ways,
Upon their hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone. (REFRAIN)**

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8:38-39

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

MATTHEW 6: 25-34

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His

kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Reflection:

A mother duck decided to make her nest ten feet up on an office-building planter. The day after the ducklings hatched out, mom was ready for their trip to the river. Unfortunately - it was a BIG jump for day old ducklings and besides that there were two downtown city blocks of traffic to navigate. So a bank worker who was watching the whole proceedings ... saw the mother duck fly down and then quack for her babies to follow. The first one did... a very painful first flight on hard cement! So the man ran out and started catching the rest of the ducklings as they popped off their high perch. He, with the help of some co-workers, was able to round up the ducklings and place them in a cardboard box and carry them to the river where they rejoined their mother. Doesn't this remind us of God's solicitude for us?

In Isaiah 66:10-14, God, our almighty Creator, always wants us, His creatures, to know Him and His love. In Scripture, God uses many different pictures and examples to reveal Himself to us. Isaiah 66:12-13 states, "As nurslings, you shall be carried in her arms, and fondled in her lap. As a mother comforts her son, so will I comfort you." Here, God compares Himself to the image of a "human mother." Not only that, He also uses the image of a "mother hen" to describe His protection for us, "how many times I yearned to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her young under her wings" (Matthew 23:37).

HYMN: A Mighty Fortress

**A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.**

**Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.**

**And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,**

One little word shall fell him.

**That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth;
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

RESPONSE: O Lord, let Your face shine upon us.

✠That each of us may grow in faith, we pray:

**✠That those who feel lonely and deserted will find assurance in You,
O Lord, we pray:**

**✠That we may make known Your presence Lord among us by the way
we love one another, we pray:**

✠That we may continually live as Your holy people, we pray:

**Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin?
Yet not one of them falls to the ground
without your Father's knowledge.
Even all the hairs of your head are counted.
So do not be afraid;
you are worth more than many sparrows.
Matthew 10: 29-31**

Psalm 85 (86)

**A poor person's prayer in time of trouble
Lord God, You are full of mercies, patient and true.**

**Turn Your ear to me, Lord, and hear me,
for I am poor and destitute.**

Keep my life safe, for I am faithful;

O God, save Your servant, who trusts in You.

**Take pity upon me, O Lord,
for I call to You all the day long.**

**Make Your servant's heart glad,
for to You, O Lord, I have raised it.**

**For You, Lord, are gentle and mild:
You are kind to all those who call on You.**

Let Your ears hear my prayer, O Lord!

Turn to the voice of my pleading!

**In my time of trouble I call on You,
for You, O Lord, will hear me.**



OUR FATHER

HYMN: HIS EYE IS UPON THE SPARROW

**Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come
Why should my heart be lonely
And long for heaven's home when Jesus is my portion?
My constant Friend is He;**

REFRAIN:

**His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me.
(2X)**

**Let not your heart be troubled, His tender word I hear
And resting on His goodness
I lose my doubts and fears
Tho' by the path He lead-eth
But one step I may see. (Refrain)**

**Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise
When song gives place to sighing
When hope in me dies
I draw the closer to Him
From care He sets me free. (Refrain)**

PRAYER

**Let nothing disturb you,
Nothing affright you
All things are passing;
God never changes;
Patient endurance
Attains to all things;
Who God possesses
In nothing is wanting;
Alone God suffices.
Saint Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)**

BLESSING

**May the Lord bless you in your loneliness,
May the Lord console you in your grief,
May the Lord calm you in your anxiety,
May the Lord forgive you in your guilt,
May the Lord be with you in your despair,
May the Lord meet in mercy all who seek peace.
In the name of God our Father Who is our Creator,
In the name of Jesus the Son Who is our Redeemer,
In the name of the Spirit most Holy Who is our Sustainer. Amen.**



Saint John Baptist de La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
help us to remember that we continually live in the presence of God.

Live Jesus in our hearts.
Forever!

