

Litanies and Reflections based on Bible Themes

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Psalm 8 - with quotes from the Metta Sutta by Thich Nhat Hanh, Teachings on Love

O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
When I look at your heavens, the work of your
fingers, the moon and the stars that you have
established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of
them, mortals that you care for them?

*Even as a mother protects with her life
her child, her only child,
so with a boundless heart should one cherish
all living beings.*

Yet you have made them a little lower than
God, and crowned them with glory and honor.
You have given them dominion over the works
of your hands; you have put all things under
their feet, all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the
air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

*Let no one do harm to anyone.
Let no one put the life of anyone in danger.
Let no one, out of anger or ill will, wish anyone
harm.*

O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

*May all living beings live in security and
peace, beings who are frail or strong, tall or
short, big or small,
visible or not visible,
near or far away,
already born or yet to be born.
May all of them dwell in perfect tranquility.*

Psalm 22:1-5 - Prayer - 1997

In a world ravaged by war;
In a city undermined by racism;
In homes tormented with apathy, anger, and
frenetic pace;

We cry:

**My God, my God, why have you forsaken
me?**

**Why are you so far from helping me, from
the words of my groaning?**

Our schedules offer testimony To our frantic
search for meaning;
Getting ahead, getting healthy, getting
religion.

**O my God, I cry by day, but you do not
answer;**

And by night, but you do not answer.

Slow us down, loving God.
Let us be still in your presence.

Yet you are holy.

**In you our ancestors trusted, and you
delivered them.**

To you they cried, and were saved.

**In you they trusted, and were not put to
shame.**

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Psalm 23 - Prayer of Dedication - 1994

Psalm 66 - Call to Worship

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;
We believe in the goodness of God.
We believe God hears and responds to our needs.
We believe God responds to all children everywhere.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters,
he restores my soul.

We are grateful that we've been blessed with enough water.
But we know that many do not have enough.
Not enough water, not enough food, not enough peace.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Too many children do not see God's righteousness.
Too many children watch violence, taste hunger, feel fear.
Too many children cry from the unspeakable horror of war.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

To become involved is risky. Pain is often contagious.
Our hearts may be broken and our lives may be threatened.
Yet we hear God calling and we can no longer hide.

Thou preparest a table for me in the presence of my enemies; thou annointest me head with oil, my cup overflows.

Our steps may be small and timid.
We may read a book, write a letter, or make a gift.
But each tiny step is blessed by God and multiplies.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

God is more relentless than war.
God is more pervasive than hatred.
God is more insistent than despair.

Amen. **Amen.**

Come and see the works of God,
God's awesome deeds among us.
Come and hear, all who revere God,
God's still speaking voice in our weary world.

Come and touch the sacred, extraordinary in the ordinary,
God's presence in water, bread and wine.