

PASTORAL PRAYER

3/4/62

Dear God, on this beautiful, bright, late winter day, it somehow seems easier to praise and love Thee than it does on some other days. We marvel at Thee. We cannot understand Thee fully, but with the knowledge of Thee which we do have there is more than enough cause to admire thee, to stand in awe of Thee, and to love Thee at any and at all times. Really, we are unworthy of any attention at all from Thee. But we have so many proof of Thy love and concern for each of us that only the most ungrateful person will fail to thank Thee at times.

If we are honest with ourselves, we must admit that we are people full of fault; that we need forgiveness. We are surprised that in Jesus we have assurance that true penitence and sorrow on our part, when followed by a strong intent to do better, is the key to forgiveness. We thank Thee for Jesus, and for all his teachings, example and meaning for us.

We pray for many people and for many things. The people include

ourselves, our loved ones, our friends and neighbors, leaders in all echelons of government, the newly married, the grieving, new babies, the aged, the ill, and many others. We pray that Thou wilt grant to them according to their needs.

Now we pray specifically for this service, those in it, those who listen to it, and for all who worship Thee through Christ. As the Spring and Summer sun soon will melt the mountain snows and cause life-giving water to flow to the plains, come Thou now, O Lord, into our hearts with the eternal life of Christian faith, truth, and spirit.

We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.