

Prayer To Live Mercifully

O God,

Teach me

Not to envy,

to hate,

to justify,

to imitate,

to support,

to ennoble,

or to kill for,

Those who take the food from the table of others and then teach contentment,

Those for whom the taxes are destined, who demand sacrifice,

Those who eat their fill, who speak to the hungry of good times to come,

Those who lead humanity into the abyss, calling

Hate, love,

Unfaithfulness, faithfulness,

Lies, truth,

Slavery, freedom,

Too much, not enough,

Homicide, heroism,

Evil, good.

And, O God,

Teach me

when I have food, to remember the hungry;

when I have work, to remember the jobless;

when I have a home, to remember the homeless;

when I am free, to remember the imprisoned,

when I am without pain, to remember the suffering,

when I am loved, to remember the unloved,

when I am living, to remember the dying,

when I am dead, to remember the living.

And remembering, help me to destroy

my complacency; bestir my compassion, and thereby

spend my time and my eternity

doing good upon earth, helping

by word and deed, by prayer and sacrifice of self

those who cry out

for what I take for granted.

Amen.