

In the Loving Care of God - 1



Opening Hymn: I Will Sing of Your Salvation Helen Gilsdorf, RSM

I will sing of your salvation.
My mouth is filled with your glory day by day.
As my years grow long
And my bones grow old in praising you,
Be my strength, O God! Be my strength, O God!
Be my strength for length of days!

I will sing of your salvation.
My mouth is filled with your justice day by day.
I proclaim your word, bringing freedom to your people.
Be my strength, O God! Be my strength, O God!
Be my strength for length of days!

I will sing of your salvation.
My mouth is filled with thanksgiving day by day.
For your faithful love, for your mercy without measure.
Be my strength, O God! Be my strength, O God!
Be my strength for length of days!

I will sing of your salvation.
My mouth is filled with your praises day by day.
With the harp and lyre, I will sing to you a song of joy.
Be my strength, O God! Be my strength, O God!
Be my strength for length of days!

Reading: Matthew 6: 25 – 33

That is why I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and how you are to clothe it. Surely life means more than food, and the body more than clothing! Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not worth more than they are? Can any of you, for all your worrying, add one single cubit to your span of life? And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin; yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his regalia was robed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the grass in the fields which is here today and gone tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, oh you of little faith? So do not worry; do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? How are we to be clothed?" ...Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your heart on his kingdom first, and on his righteousness, and all these other things will be given to you as well.

Response: Psalm 8

Antiphon: Lord, our God, the whole world tells the greatness of your name.

Lord, our God,
the whole world tells
the greatness of your name.
Your glory reaches
beyond the stars.

Even the babble of infants
declares your strength,
your power to halt
the enemy and avenger.

I see your handiwork
in the heavens:
the moon and stars
you set in place.

What is humankind
that you remembered them
the human race
that you care for them?

You treated them like gods
dressing them in glory and splendor.
You give them charge of the earth,
laying all at their feet:

cattle and sheep,
wild beasts,
birds of the sky,
fish of the sea,
every swimming creature.

Lord, our God,
the whole world tells
the greatness of your name.

Glory to you, three in one.
Your mercy endured forever.

Antiphon: Lord, our God, the whole world tells the greatness of your name.

Reflection:

During this time of reflection, remember all the evidences in our world of God's consistent, provident love, especially towards the Sisters of Mercy. When this time ends you will be invited to share what you have remembered using the words of Scripture -

Look at _____. They (she or he) _____. Yet _____.

(For instance -

Look at Catherine McAuley. She had no great plan. Yet God prospered her fledgling community. Or

Look at Mercy International Association. Its members are widely scattered. Yet we enjoy a strong sense of unity. Or

Look at our ministries. They were founded with few resources. Yet they have thrived.

Your group may also want to take the time to discuss some of the sharings.

Response: Psalm 138: 1-3 (Adapted in The Message, Eugene Peterson)

Thank you! Everything in me says, Thank you!
Angels listen as I sing my thanks.
I kneel in worship facing your holy temple
 and say it again: Thank you!
Thank you for your love,
 thank you for your faithfulness;
Most holy is your name,
 most holy is your word.
The moment I called out, you stepped in;
 you made my life large with strength.

Thank you! Everything in me says, Thank you!

Consider how God has made you “large with strength” as you repeat the opening hymn.