

Pastoral Prayer
2/19/12

O God, whose glory shines in the face of Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior, we thank you today for lifting our sites above the everyday plain to the lofty heights of your mysterious world, to a greater reality than what we usually see, to your magnificent coming new day when we'll stand together with you in radiant light. We thank you for glimpses of that new day, here and there, now and then, when you lift the veil separating us from you and give us moments of revelation that strengthen us for the journeys on which your Spirit guides us. May we be inspired by these visions of your divine grace to meet the challenges we face back down in our everyday lives, where people are hurting, where answers to our questions are few, and where life in just two dimensions would crush our commitment to follow where you lead us.

O God, we ask your blessing on all those people we come across on our journeys who seem never to look up, or who looking up, never seem to see you. Grant them the same kind of vision into a wider reality that will open their eyes, minds and hearts to a wider reality than what they think is there. Inspire them by your Holy Spirit to live their lives transformed by your power, following in the way of Jesus Christ, who came to show us your way. May the shining light of his divine transcendence flood into their lives as well as ours.

We pray today for all those people who live in poverty, misery, war and despair. Lift them out of such death-dealing circumstances. Strengthen and heal them, in body, mind and spirit. Inspire us to work for justice and for peace, that this world might come to resemble more nearly the way you intend it to be. When our courage and commitment to live as healers and peacemakers flags, when our political process seems to have devolved to the lowest common denominator, when our society and our world seem bent only on tearing down rather than building up, surprise us by lifting our sights once again, and encouraging us anew to be all we can be, to see the bigger picture, and to trust in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together his prayer, saying,

“Our Father, who art in heaven...”