

*If we prayed  
our prayers out loud . . .*

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Eternal God,  
We thank you for demanding so very little,  
for barely troubling our comfort,  
for taking the chaff, not the wheat of our life.

We appreciate the chance  
to speak openly of faith  
as we privately disbelieve,  
to sing of your joy  
in bland security,  
to praise sacrifice  
while resting in surplus,  
to celebrate your generosity  
as we trust our own cleverness.

Protect us from irony and too-clear perception.  
Leave us our fogged vision and dulled senses.  
Keep us from honest community,  
and lead us beyond the reach of justice  
in blissful privacy.

Lend your weight against the shifting tides  
that threaten our privilege  
and make us nervous.  
Reinforce our defensive zeal  
with self-righteousness.

Grant us the food and coin  
to satiate our every imagination.  
Favor us always with extravagance.  
Silence the cries of the hungry  
painlessly and out of sight,  
especially the old and the children  
who make us feel so bad.

May your compassion be manifest  
that ours might remain untested.

Eternal God,  
strengthen the economic structures that protect us  
and extend their power on our behalf.  
Grant us ignorance of their workings  
lest our bliss be troubled.

Quicken our armies and multiply our missiles  
so that all will tremble at our every whim.  
*May your Kingdom never come.*

*Amen*