

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

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