

O God come to our aid: O Lord make haste to help us. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Love Divine 25

MUSIC "Deer Lord & Father of Mankind" 3:30

PRAYERS

The reading I've chosen for our reflection and to help focus our prayer today is from words (spoken and written) by a man of a 100 years ago who's never really gone out of fashion - his name keeps coming up, tho' he is really more honored in the memory of who and what he was than in the reading or listening to what he had to say, in his ^{spiritual} instructions, his writing, his preaching. I'm referring to John Henry, Cardinal Newman, one of the great churchmen of recent centuries, a man whose thought and personal holiness made him a figure of great influence and importance both in and beyond the Church in England, a position that perhaps isn't always appreciated as much as it ought to be. Today, then, from Newman's "Meditations and Devotions", and from a sermon of his, and a thought from an essay on Doctrine: "God has created me to do Him some definite service: He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission - I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.... I have a part in a great work: I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do His work: I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it, if I do but keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling. Therefore I will trust Him. Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him; in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him: if I

am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. My sickness, or perplexity, or sorrow may be necessary causes of some great end, which is quite beyond us. He does nothing in vain; He may prolong my life. He may shorten it: He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide the future from me - still He knows what He is about..... / We cannot change ourselves: this we know full well, or, at least, a very little experience will teach us. God alone can change us; God alone can give us the desires, affections, principles, views, and tastes which a change implies: this, too, we know..... What then is it that we who profess religion lack? I repeat it, this: a willingness to be changed, a willingness to suffer (if I may use such a word) to suffer Almighty God to change us.... But when a man comes to God to be saved, then, I say, the essence of true conversion is a surrender of himself, an unreserved, unconditional surrender; and this is a saying which most men who come to God cannot receive. They wish to be saved, but in their own way; they wish (as it were) to capitulate upon terms, to carry off their goods with them; whereas the true spirit of faith leads a man to look off from self to God, to think nothing of his own wishes, his present habits, his importance or dignity, his rights, his opinions, but to say: 'put myself into thy hands, O Lord: make thou me what thou wilt; I forget myself; I divorce myself from myself; I am dead to myself; I will follow thee.'..... In a higher world it is otherwise, but here below to live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often. — Cardinal John Henry Newman. And now, to pray in music for a while, "Seek the Lord"

Earthly Vowels 25

MUSIC - PRAYERS (incl. Neome): SCRIPTURE (cf p1 reverse). BLESSING

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord, and not for men. Remember that the Lord will reward you: you will receive what He has kept for his people. For Christ is the real Master you serve.

The Lord is my portion and cup / It is you who mark out my lot. Let us pray:
On the cross, Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your hands for the salvation of the human race; grant that our life & work may be pleasing to you and bear witness to the power of your redeeming love. Who live and reign for ever & ever.

(Newman) May He support us all the day long, till the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then in His mercy may He give us a safe lodging, a holy rest and peace at last. Amen