

Poetry by D.S. Martin

LITANY FOR THE THIRD MILLENNIUM

—1—

We reach beyond our reach
to the reaching unreachable
who alone reaches us

whose love endures forever

to the unseen Father the unmade maker
of the perceivable & inconceivable
of all that has been made both whole & broken

whose love endures forever

to the Lamb spoken before our world was made
the sure Word our ears can never contain
the rejected stone blocking our way

whose love endures forever

to the mysterious Ghost overflowing
our bodies & bones with living water
revitalizing our ruinous dejected clay

whose love endures forever

to the unnumbered three the Trinity
lifting us with muscle heart & mind
eternally beyond what intellects could ever find

whose love endures forever

—2—

With the eyes & arms & insight you've given
we reach beyond our reach toward you Lord
in need of every help you give

grant us heavenly understanding

Through your scriptures which we've studied
& erroneously muddied teach us to turn
from twisting them to being untwisted by them

grant us heavenly understanding

Through your other book (written in nature)
which we've also trampled enlighten us
with the light of who you are

grant us heavenly understanding

—3—

When we cry to you concerning friends
whose griefs are hard to bear

Lord hear & answer our prayer

When they face family strife job loss
weakness cancer despair

Lord hear & answer our prayer

When we cry to you concerning victims
of disaster violence & warfare

Lord hear & answer our prayer

When we forgive others though their wrongs
against us makes forgiveness hard to declare

Lord hear & answer our prayer

When your Spirit intercedes with words
we don't know how to pray

Lord hear & answer our prayer

When friends who've been taught
your way go astray

Lord hear & answer our prayer

Even when through our action or inaction
we know we share the blame

Lord hear & answer our prayer

When we pray in the name of the Son
& pray your will be done we declare

Lord hear & answer our prayer

—4—

When we block your light
so our shimmer might show

Lord have mercy

When our churches fill
with our wearying shadow

Lord have mercy

When we seek our own glory
trying to prove we are right
when we wander through the night
when we're distracted from your light
which our darkness can never overcome
because *you*

Lord have mercy

As we seek your face & nest
in your grace we know
even when the might of darkness
seems bright your shine is supreme
& *you*

Lord have mercy

—5—

When we consider your love opened you
to take on human form
to live as a refugee an itinerate a servant

may we live your truth

through love for one another

When we consider your love opened you
to befriend exploited women tax collectors
the wounded widows & fishermen

may we live your truth

through love for one another

When we consider your love opened you
to patience with disciples slow to believe

but quick to abandon you in your need

**may we live your truth
through love for one another**

When we consider your love opened you
to refrain from retaliating when you arose
victorious from the dead

**may we live your truth
through love for one another**

May we turn to you Lord
rather than to all you can do for us

May we praise your name Lord
rather than thoughtlessly repeating words

May we bring you glory Lord
rather than to ourselves or even to our churches

May these things come to be
Amen

DSM