

All the Prayers of God's People
July 28, 2020

Recently I was tagged in a Facebook post recognizing that sometimes in this strange reality we are living, our prayers are not elaborate or ornate offerings but in fact simple acts of life, heard by God.

Simultaneously, a book by Brene' Brown describes love not as something we say but instead as something we practice. When we love the Lord, we practice that love. When we love one another, we practice that love in our acts.

The following prayer is an example of how we act and practice our prayers (and our love) in our broken world.

Written by The Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber, Lutheran pastor and author, it says this:

I do not know when we can gather together again in worship, Lord.

So, for now I just ask that:

When I sing along in my kitchen to each song on Stevie Wonder's Songs in The Key of Life Album, that it be counted as praise. (Happy 70th Birthday, SW!)

And that when I read the news and my heart tightens in my chest, may it be counted as a Kyrie.

And that when my eyes brighten in a smile behind my mask as I thank the cashier, may it be counted as passing the peace.

And that when I water my plants and wash my dishes and take a shower may it be counted as remembering my baptism.

And that when the tears come and my shoulders shake and my breathing falters, may it be counted as prayer.

And that when I stumble upon a Tabitha Brown video and hear her grace and love of you may it be counted as a hearing a homily.

And that as I sit at that table in my apartment, and eat one more homemade meal, slowly, joyfully, with nothing else demanding my time or attention, may it be counted as communion. Amen.

Friends when you feel as if you cannot simply pray anymore, may your everyday life be a gift and blessing to God. There are days of this journey that are easier and there are days when our hearts simply cannot take anymore weight. This is when God meets us and hears the innermost whispers we offer. So today, in your prayers, sing, dance, listen, cry, and eat to the Lord who makes all things possible. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.