



March 2009 Devotion

Outreach Ministry to the Homeless and Addicted in Detroit

Leader: As the Irish Shamrock below reminds us of the Triune God in whom we trust - the only true God,

All: "Let us begin in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit ".

Leader: In the midst of this age of distress and concern, let us still ever praise our Triune God for the blessings of home and shelter which many of us enjoy from our Creator.

All: We praise you , O God, and confess that "You give us all that we need to support this body and life. . . including food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home and so much more," as Martin Luther says in the explanation of the Lord's Prayer.

Leader: And yet, we know that many do not enjoy these blessings due to circumstances often beyond their control.

All: Dear Lord, make us compassionate and understanding, slow to judge others and eager to help. Remind us in the words You spoke through James 2:14-17, that we should demonstrate our faith by meeting the needs of those who lack clothing, shelter and food.

Leader: We praise you today for the work being done among the homeless and addicted in the city of Detroit, Michigan, where over 25,000 people are homeless. Bless Rev. James Hill, Mrs. Susan Hatcher-Wilson and all the volunteers and the people they serve at Family of God Outreach Ministry three times a week for nourishment of body and soul.

All: With the Psalmist we give thanks to You saying, " Who is like the LORD our God, the One who sits enthroned on high, who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth? He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes, with the princes of their people." (Ps. 113:5-8)

Leader: Help us find ways to assist the homeless and/or addicted in our neighborhoods, towns and cities. Make us ever mindful of your blessing, Lord, that in helping others, we serve You.

All: "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' (Matt. 25:37-40)

Leader: In closing, please join me in saying an Old Irish prayer asking our Lord Jesus Christ to be with us:

**"Christ be with me,
be after me,
be before me,
and be at my right and left hand.
May everything I do be for Christ."
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**