



A PSALM BEFORE BEGINNING WORK

To you oh Divine One,
from whose hands comes the work of creation, so artfully designed,
I pray that this work I am about to do
may be done in companionship with you.
May the work that I will soon begin
sing praise to you as songbirds do.
May the work that I will soon begin
add to the light of your presence because it is done with great love.
May the work that I will soon begin
speak like a prophet of old of your dream of beauty and unity.
May the work that I will soon begin
be a shimmering mirror of your handiwork
- in the excellence of its execution
- in the joy of doing it for its own sake
- in my poverty of ownership over it
- in my openness to failure or success
- in my invitation to others to share in it
- and in its bearing fruit for the world.
May I be aware that through this work I draw near you.
I come to you, Beloved, with ready hands.



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**A PSALM BEFORE LEAVING WORK**

My day ends here, O my Beloved,  
and I give you thanks for my employment  
when so many are jobless.  
I thank you, my God, for your grace  
in the difficult moments of this day.  
I am grateful for the gift of community  
with those who share this work.  
Look with compassion upon any failure  
to treat each person I have met today,  
whether friend or stranger, as Christ.  
With your holy help, tomorrow I will do better.  
  
Blessed are you who gives me a share  
in the work of re-creating the world  
in love, justice and peace.

*By Fr. Edward Hays in Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim*



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