

## Pastor's Notes: You are God: we praise You

December 27, 2020

A plenary indulgence is granted by the Church to those who sing the hymn, *Te Deum*, "You are God: we praise you," recited publicly on the last day of the year. Further, a partial indulgence is granted to the Christian faithful who recite this hymn as an act of thanksgiving at any time. Our Mother Church gives us indulgences to encourage us to do good things, to reward piety and to form in positive ways our behavior and activity throughout our Christian life. Her indulgence concerning this particular prayer, which I have copied below, encourages us to praise God and to give Him thanks for all His many benefits. It is traditionally sung at the Office of Readings of the Liturgy of the Hours on Sundays and solemnities. But also, because of this indulgence, it became a standard practiced among Catholics for when good things happened. When someone would return from a long journey safely, they would enter into the church and the community could sing the *Te Deum*. When war ended, the chapter of a cathedral would gather and sing a *Te Deum*, thanking God for the end of violence and bloodshed. When cities were delivered from the plague, the *Te Deum* was sung by all the people. Perhaps we have not yet come to the end of our labors in this current pandemic and the crazy year that has been 2020. But even in the midst of our present suffering, we are called to praise the God who already has delivered us from sin and death in our baptism. It is never the wrong time to give him the praise that is due His name. Feel free to join me in offering this prayer of praise to our God as we come to the close of this year that has revealed to us our need to stay closer to Him than ever.

*Te Deum*


You are God: we praise you;

You are the Lord: we acclaim you;

You are the eternal Father:

All creation worships you.

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,

Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praise you.

The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you:

Father, of majesty unbounded,  
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,  
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the king of glory,  
the eternal Son of the Father.

When you became man to set us free  
you did not spurn the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death,  
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.

We believe that you will come, and be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people,  
bought with the price of your own blood,  
and bring us with your saints  
to glory everlasting.

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance.

R. Govern and uphold them now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you.

R. We praise your name for ever.

V. Keep us today, Lord, from all sin.

R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. for we put our trust in you.

V. In you, Lord, is our hope:

R. and we shall never hope in vain.