

## MOTHER SETON PRAYER SERVICE

### INTRODUCTION:

Elizabeth Seton, widow, mother and convert to the Catholic faith is the first native born American saint. She founded the American Sisters of Charity, established the first free Catholic day school, and opened the first Catholic orphanage. She was known for her works of mercy and charity.

### PSALM: Psalm 23

Side 1: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want,  
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;  
Beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.  
He guides me in right paths for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side  
With your rod and your staff that give me courage.

Side 2: You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes  
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life;  
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come.

### SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Sons of Songs 8:7

Deep waters cannot quench love, nor can floods sweep it away. If one offered all personal wealth to purchase love, contempt is all that would be gained.

Micah 6:8

You have been told, O man, what is good,  
and what the Lord requires of you:  
Only to do right and to love goodness,  
and to walk humbly with your God.

Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing their little children to him to have him touch them, but the disciples were scolding them for this. Jesus became indignant when he noticed it and said to them: "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them. It is to just such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I assure you that whoever does not accept the reign of God like a little child shall not take part in it." Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

Matthew 5:1-12

When he saw the crowds he went up to the mountainside. After he had sat down his disciples gathered around him and he began to teach them:

“How blest are the poor in spirit; the reign of God is theirs.  
Blest too are the sorrowing; they shall be consoled.  
[Blest are the lowly; they shall inherit the land.]  
Blest are they who hunger and thirst for holiness; they shall have their fill  
Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.  
Blest are the single-hearted for they shall see God.  
Blest too the peacemakers; they shall be called sons of God.  
Blest are those persecuted for holiness' sake; the reign of God is theirs.  
Blest are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of slander against you because of me.  
Be glad and rejoice, for your reward is great in heaven;  
they persecuted the prophets before you in the very same way.

James 2:14-17

My brothers, what good is it to profess faith without practicing it? Such faith has no power to save one, has it? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and no food for the day, and you say to them, “Good-bye and good luck! Keep warm and well fed.” but do not meet their bodily needs, what good is that? So it is with the faith that does nothing in practice. It is thoroughly lifeless.

### PETITIONS:

O God, you raised up Elizabeth Seton to be an inspiration for many. In thanksgiving for the gift of her life we pray; **RESPONSE:** Blessed by God forever.

Elizabeth Seton was widowed at an early age; may all who sorrow and are lonely be comforted, we pray; **RESPONSE:** Blessed by God forever.

Through the intercession of Elizabeth Seton, a convert to the Catholic faith, may we come to a better understanding and appreciation of our differences in our efforts to live the Gospel; **RESPONSE:** Blessed by God forever.

You inspired her to found the Sisters of Charity; help all religious men and women be faithful in following their religious commitment to Christ; **RESPONSE:** Blessed by God forever.

You filled her with zeal for the education of youth; guide all teachers and educators to enable students to grow in wisdom and their love of God; **RESPONSE:** Blessed by God forever.

O God, we give you thanks for the life of Elizabeth Seton. May the values she cherished be continued in our world today. May the holiness of her life inspire all to serve you and work only for your glory. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**LITANY:**

Elizabeth, Loving Daughter  
Encourage in all children obedience and love.

Elizabeth, Troubled Teenager  
Speak to today's confused, sometimes abused young people.

Elizabeth, Faithful Wife  
Grant gifts of love and generosity to all spouses.  
Elizabeth, Caring Mother  
Share your mother's heart with all parents.

Elizabeth, Loyal Friend  
Teach us to share friendship generously.

Elizabeth, Courageous Convert  
Strengthen the newly baptized as they embrace the faith.

Elizabeth, Sorrowing Mother  
Console those parents suffering the loss of a child.

Elizabeth, Steadfast Religious  
Inspire young women to follow in your path.

Elizabeth, Inspired Educator  
Share your gifts with all teachers.

Elizabeth, A Woman for All Women  
Bestow your charism of love and service on all women today.

**PRAYER:**

O God, we give you thanks for the life of Elizabeth Seton. May the values she cherished be realized in our world today. May the holiness of her life inspire us to serve you and work only for your glory. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**PRAYER:**

God of wonder, you blessed the people of this country through Elizabeth Seton and the women of Charity who have followed her. May we continued to educate, heal, love and serve, as she would have us do. We pray in Jesus' name.

**INTERCESSIONS:**

With Elizabeth Ann Seton let us turn to our God and pray:

- Fill our hearts with yourself who is love.

Your holy word touched and strengthened Elizabeth's heart;

- Fill us with a great desire to seek you in Scripture.

Your presence in the Eucharist was a magnetic force for Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

- May the Eucharist be our daily Bread to nourish your life in us.

Death and separation of loved ones played a painful part in her growth in holiness;

- Let our eyes of faith see your presence in whatever causes us to suffer.

Her heart was trained through genuine friendships to understand love;

- May our human loves fashion our hearts to love you and be loved by you.