

Prayer (using Ps 138)

We thank you, Lord God, for the inspiration we have received from Fr. Louis Merton's life and writings. You led him through mysterious ways, you led him along the right path that ends in nowhere and everywhere; for there is no place that can contain you. Wherever he went with his thoughts, you were there. Before even a word was in his heart or on his tongue, you knew it, O Lord, through and through. You searched his monastic life and you knew him, you knew his resting in solitude and his rising at the sound of the monastery bell, all his ways lay open to you. To him and to us how mysterious are your thoughts - they cannot be numbered. But he spoke of them, wrote of them in words that were tongued with fire, and still does inspire us with thoughts beyond the language of the living, being dead and alive with you.

Lord God, Lord Jesus, continue this Word in us. Continue to make us enjoy his humour, continue to make us search for you in the places that are beyond us, where you cannot be found but only sought, where love is the centre of gravity and laughter, 'With the drawing of this Love and the voice of this calling'.

We know that in the midst of our shattered world, in the sight of our troubles, you are still there, and we hear Fr. Louis echoing Mother Julian's trustful words, 'all will be well and all manner of thing will be well', for you are there in the crowned knot of fire, and you are the fire and the loveliness of the rose, and will be for ever and ever.

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