

LITURGY OF THE KINGDOM

Loving One's Enemies

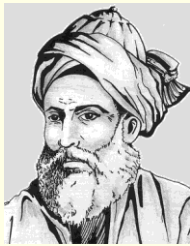
FIRST READING

Reader: *A reading taken from the spiritual heritage of humanity.*

Assembly: *From all time, Heaven has prepared the coming of the Kingdom.*

Reader: *Today, a text from Ibn Arabi,
a Muslim mystic and theologian born in Spain in the 12th century.*

It is written:



Pray for the good of the one who has treated you unjustly,
for he has prepared a benefit for you in your future life.

If you could see things as they really are, you would realize
that the one who was unjust really did you good for the life to come.

Thus, the blessing alone must be the recompense for this benefit. So, pray
for the good of him through whom this benefit has been reserved for you.

Moreover, the blessing in the life to come is permanent. Do not lose sight of this aspect of
things, and do not let yourself be deceived by the harm resulting here below from the injus-
tice dealt you.

This inconvenience must be thought of as the unpleasant medicine a sick person has to take,
because he knows that it will benefit him in the end.

The one who is unjust has a similar role; consequently, pray that only good things befall
him.

Reader: *This was a text from Ibn Arabi, a Muslim mystic and theologian.*

Assembly: *Thanks be to God.*