A prayer for Matthew 25:35

When did we see you, O Lord of our lives?
When did we feed you or give you to drink?
When did we clothe you or welcome or serve you?
When did we visit, in prison or ill?

When you cooked or you planted, you gave me to eat.
When you served or washed dishes, you gave me to drink.

When you folded the laundry or made or sold clothes,
Your work clothed the naked—and I was there, too.

When you sat at the bedside or changed the wet sheets,
You cared for the sick—and I was there, too.

When you welcomed a stranger or reached out your hand,
You met me in the lonely, the ones locked away.

Each day and each action were seen, not forgotten.
The best work you did was humble and hidden.

But when did we not see you, O God of justice?
When did we miss you before our own eyes?

When you kept for yourselves what I gave you for others.
When you walked by the ones who asked you for food.
When you were too busy, too selfish, or angry.
When you thought your importance was ultimate, too.
When you shunned the imprisoned, the suffering, the sick,
you missed the encounters I offered to you.

But you can still change now,
The time is still here.
Each day when you work, let my cries fill your ears.
Look to the lowly, forgotten, mistreated,
The ones overlooked or oppressed or unseen.

Your work is to see and to serve and to love them,
To lift up the ones that the world will forget.

The path to salvation leads straight through my people.
You love me as you love them, no simpler way.
So today as you work, and you serve, and you pray,
Remember to see me—with you I will stay.

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