

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, WASHINGTON

FOR RELEASE NOT BEFORE
10:00 PM March 17, 1941

Invocation by The Reverend ZeBarney Phillips, DD,
Chaplain of the United States Senate, at the
Dedication Ceremonies on March 17, 1941

Almighty God, eternal source of truth and beauty, in whose Being simplicity and the mystery of life do meet; as we set apart this National Shrine erected to Thy glory and the uplift of all Thy children, we beseech Thee to open our eyes that we may see with cloudless vision, through all the devious ways of self-worn paths, the eternal highway of our God, which leads to Thy secret Presence, where, far beyond the noise of mortal strife we may listen to the whisperings of God, and worship the King, who hath made this world in loveliness and signed us with the seal of manhood's true and lasting royalty.

We thank Thee for the insight and high purpose of him who hath made possible this temple, dedicated to the exaltation of beauty and the cultural aspirations of mankind. May all who come within these sacred precincts, thirsting for higher things than earth supplies, or those who in the hour when the pulse of nobleness is slow - - may each and every one find here a matchless inspiration to high and holy living, looking to the sovereignty of that quality of citizenship which alone can reveal the glorious splendor of our Nation.

We ask it in our dear Redeemer's Name.

AMEN