

# Blessed are the poor in spirit

by [Tania Runyan](#) in the [March 10, 2009](#) issue

I am not made to pray. I close my eyes  
and float among the spots behind my lids.  
I chew the name *God, God*, like habitual  
gum, think about dusting the shelves, then sleep.

It is hard to speak to the capital LORD  
who deals in mountains and seas, not in a woman  
rewashing her mildewed laundry while scolding  
her toddler through gritted teeth. I should

escape to the closet and kneel to the holy  
singularity who blasted my cells from a star.  
I should imagine the blood soaking  
into the cross's grain, plead forgiveness

for splintering my child's soul. But the words  
never find their way out of the dark.  
Choirs and candles shine in his bones  
while I doze at the door of his body.