

Tom Ames Prayer  
Steve Earle

#-----PLEASE NOTE-----#  
#This file is the author s own work and represents their interpretation of the #  
#song. You may only use this file for private study, scholarship, or research. #  
#-----#  
#

From: Juddy@aol.com  
Subject: Steve Earle, Tom Ames Prayer.pro

Tom Ames Prayer, by Steve Earle

appears on Steve Earle, Train a Comin  
and Robert Earl Keen, Gringo Honeymoon

(G)Everyone in Nagadoches knew Tom Ames  
would come to some bad (D)end,  
Cause the (Em)sheriff had caught him stealing (C)chickens and such from the  
(G)time that (D)he was (G)ten.

(G)One day his daddy took a 10-dollar bill  
and he tucked it in his (D)hand,  
He said (Em)I know you re headed for (C)trouble son,  
your (G)mama wouldn t (D)under(G)stand.

(G)So he took his dad s money and his brother s old bay  
and he left without a word of (D)thanks,  
Fell (Em)in with this crowd in a (C)border town  
and he (G)took to (D)robbin (G)banks.

(solo over)

Em-C- G- D  
Em-C- G - D -G

(G)Outside the law his luck a-run out fast,  
a few years came and (D)went;  
Til he was (Em)trapped up in an alley in (C)Abilene  
with (G)all but (D)four shells (G)spent.

(G)And he realized then that prayin was the only thing  
he hadn t ever (D)tried;  
He (Em)didn t know quite how to (C)do it  
but he (G)looked up (D)to the (G)sky.

(G)He said You don t owe me nothin and as far as I know, Lord  
I don t owe nothin to (D)you  
(Em)I ain t askin for a (C)miracle Lord  
a (G)little bit of (D)luck will (G)do.

(G)You know I ain t never prayed before  
cause it always seemed to (D)me  
that (Em)prayin was just like (C)beggin  
and I (G)don t take (D)chari(G)ty.

break:

**Em-C-G-D**

**Em-C G-D-G**

(G)Lord, I ve had some breaks in my life  
as you already (D)know  
I ve (Em)had some help from the good lord and the (C)devil himself s  
been (G)strictly (D)touch and (G)go.

(G)Right here now with my back to the wall  
I can t help but re(D)call  
how they (Em)nearly hung me for (C)stealin a horse  
in (G)Ft. (D)Smith, (G)Arkansas

(G)Judge Parker said guilty and his gavel came down  
just like a cannon (D)shot  
I (Em)went away (C)quietly  
I beg(G)an to (D)file and (G)plot.

(G)They sent that old preacher down to my cell  
he said, the lord is your only (D)hope,  
(Em)he ll be the only friend you (C)have, son  
when you (G)hit the (D)end of Parker s (G)rope.

(G)Well, I guess he could ve kept on preachin til Christmas  
but he turned his back on (D)me  
(Em)I put a homemade blade to that (C)golden throat  
and asked the (G)deputy (D)for the (G)key.

(G)Ah, but who in the hell am I talkin to?  
there ain t no one here but (D)me  
(single strum each chord)  
(Em)So he cocked both his pistols, (C)spit in the dirt,  
and (G)walked in(D)to that (G)street.

(break and end.)

juddy@aol.com (Jud Branam)