



birdsong



O heavenly Father, you
have filled the world

with beauty: Open our eyes to
behold your gracious hand in all your
works; that, rejoicing in your whole
creation, we may learn to serve you
with gladness; for the sake of him
through whom all things were made,
your Son Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.



THE *readings*

A reading from Psalm 148.

1 Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens.

Praise him in the heavens above.

2 Praise him, all his angels.

Praise him, all his angels in heaven.

3 Praise him, sun and moon.

Praise him, all you shining stars.

4 Praise him, you highest heavens.

Praise him, you waters above the skies.

*5 Let all of them praise the name of the Lord,
because at his command they were created.*

6 He established them for ever and ever.

He gave them laws they will always have to obey.

7 Praise the Lord from the earth,

*you great sea creatures and all the deepest parts
of the ocean.*

8 Praise him, lightning and hail, snow and clouds.

Praise him, you stormy winds that obey him.

⁹ *Praise him, all you mountains and hills.*

Praise him, all you fruit trees and cedar trees.

¹⁰ *Praise him, all you wild animals and cattle.*

Praise him, you small creatures and flying birds.

¹¹ *Praise him, you kings of the earth and all nations.*

Praise him, all you princes and rulers on earth.

¹² *Praise him, young men and women.*

Praise him, old men and children.

¹³ *Let them praise the name of the Lord.*

His name alone is honored.

His glory is higher than the earth and the heavens.

¹⁴ *He has given his people a strong king.*

All his faithful people praise him for that gift.

All the people of Israel are close to his heart.

Praise the Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A reading from Psalm 17:6-9.

6 My God, I call out to you because you will answer me.

Listen to me. Hear my prayer.

7 Show me the wonders of your great love.

By using your great power,
you save those who go to you for safety from their enemies.

8 Take good care of me, just as you would take care of your own eyes.

Hide me in the shadow of your wings.

9 Save me from the sinful people who want to destroy me.

Save me from my deadly enemies who are all around me.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A reading from Zephaniah 3:14-17.

¹⁴ People of Zion, sing!

Israel, shout loudly!

People of Jerusalem, be glad!

Let your hearts be full of joy.

¹⁵ The Lord has stopped punishing you.

He has made your enemies turn away from you.

The Lord is the King of Israel.

He is with you.

You will never again be afraid

that others will harm you.

¹⁶ The time is coming when people will say to
Jerusalem,

“Zion, don’t be afraid.

Don’t give up.

¹⁷ The Lord your God is with you.

He is the Mighty Warrior who saves.

He will take great delight in you.

In his love he will no longer punish you.

Instead, he will sing for joy because of you.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE *wonderings*

*what do you wonder about
because of what you've read or heard?*

THE *observations*

*as you listen to the birds sing,
how do their chirps remind you
of the way we praise God?
how does their singing remind you
of the way God sings over you?
what does it mean that He sings over you?*

THE *connections*

what does today's conversation make you think of?

THE *response*

*what do you want to draw or write or remember
because of what you read or heard or saw?*



THE *prayers*

***what do you want to say to God
because of what you read or heard or saw?***

the glory of creation

by *Walter Rauschenbusch*

Oh God, we thank you for this earth, our home; for the wide sky and the blessed sun, for the salt sea and the running water, for the everlasting hills and the never-resting winds, for trees and the common grass underfoot.

We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of birds, and see the splendor of the summer fields, and taste of the autumn fruits, and rejoice in the feel of the snow, and smell the breath of the spring.

Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty; and save our souls from being so blind that we pass unseeing when even the common thorn bush is aflame with your glory, O God our creator, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.

**THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

God knows you! He's crazy about you! He goes with you everywhere!