



clouds



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 78:1-4, 7, 12-14.

¹ My people, listen to my teaching.

Pay attention to what I say.

² I will open my mouth and tell a story.

I will speak about things that were hidden.

They happened a long time ago.

³ We have heard about them and we know them.

Our people who lived before us have told us
about them.

⁴ We won't hide them from our children.

We will tell them to those who live after us.

We will tell them what the Lord has done that is
worthy of praise.

We will talk about his power and the wonderful things he has done.

⁷ Then they would put their trust in God.

They would not forget what he had done.

They would obey his commands.

¹² He did miracles right in front of their people who lived long ago.

At that time they were living in Egypt, in the area of Zoan.

¹³ God parted the Red Sea and led them through it.

He made the water stand up like a wall.

¹⁴ He guided them with the cloud during the day.

He led them with the light of a fire all night long.

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 Exodus 13:21-22.

²¹ By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud. It guided them on their way. At night he led them with a pillar of fire. It gave them light. So they could travel by day or at night. ²² The pillar of cloud didn't leave its place in front of the people during the day. And the pillar of fire didn't leave its place at night.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from Nehemiah 9:19-20.

¹⁹ "Because you loved them so much, you didn't leave them in the desert. During the day the pillar of cloud didn't stop guiding them on their path. At night the pillar of fire didn't stop shining on the way you wanted them to go. ²⁰ You gave them your good Spirit to teach them. You didn't hold back your manna from their mouths. And you gave them water when they were thirsty.

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

*I wonder why the LORD showed himself as a cloud?
I wonder how you have experienced the LORD's presence?*

THE *connections*

***what does today's conversation make you think of?
are there other Bible stories that come to mind?***

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?***

Psalm 36:5-9

5 Lord, your love is as high as the heavens.

Your faithful love reaches up to the skies.

6 Your holiness is as great as the height of the highest mountains.

You are as honest as the oceans are deep.

Lord, you keep people and animals safe.

7 How priceless your faithful love is!

People find safety in the shadow of your wings.

8 They eat well because there is more than enough in your house.

You let them drink from your river that flows with good things.

9 You have the fountain of life.

We are filled with light because you give us light.

praying a poem

Springtime Praises

Bless the Lord of heaven above,
sing to God with thanks and love,
Praise him for the joyful spring.
bringing life to everything.

Praise him for the blossom trees,
birds and butterflies and bees.

Praise him for the cloud and rain,
and for sunshine once again.

Bless the Lord of heaven above,
sing to God with thanks and love.

-Sophie Piper-

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!