

Daily Devotions

June 5-11, 2022

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Sunday, June 5, 2022

Text: Psalm 104, excerpts

²⁴ **O LORD, how manifold are your works!**

**In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

³⁰ **When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.**

^{35b} **Bless the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD!**

Celebrating the wonders of the world, Psalm 104 is classified as a creation psalm. Giving thanks and praise to God, the creator, today's appointed psalm helps us to better understand the day of Pentecost, when God's renewing Spirit is sent forth to all life on earth. Throughout the Easter season, our weekly psalms have joyfully lifted up the waters, wildlife, and even the weather that defines our lives in the Northern Great Lakes Synod. With all creation, we join the song and celebration.

Let's pray: *Almighty God, with grateful hearts, we join creation's song. We rejoice in the beauty of this day which you have made. Send us forth to serve the world, empowered by the power of your Spirit. Amen.*

Monday, June 6, 2022

Text: Psalm 148, excerpts

¹ **Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!**

² **Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**

³ **Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!**

⁷ **Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,**

⁸ **fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

⁹ **Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!**

¹⁰ **Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

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

When even the snow joins the song of praise, a psalm like this illustrates everyday life in northernmost Wisconsin and Michigan. For example my cousin Bev recently posted video of a moose and a bear sighted near her home along the shore of Lake Superior. A few weeks earlier, she'd shared video of a deer licking the bird seed out of a fairly small hole from a feeder on her deck. Despite some of the disadvantages, most of us feel fortunate to live in the midst of the woods and waters, where all creation seems to sing. After a long winter, what a joy to celebrate all that is bright, beautiful and new in our own little corner of world. Thank you for sharing your videos, Bev!

Let's pray: *Creator God, we celebrate the beauty of the world around us. We give thanks for our neighbors, including the wild animals, creeping things, and flying birds. As we move from spring to summer, help us to appreciate each new day that you have made. Amen.*

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Text: Psalm 8, excerpts

**³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
⁴ what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?
⁵ Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.
⁶ You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
⁹ O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

Whenever I read this short Psalm, I am amazed by the wonders of creation. Reflect on the question raised by the psalmist: "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?" As children of God, we have been given both a huge honor and an immense responsibility. How are we doing with the world which has been entrusted to us?

Let's pray: *Merciful Father, help us to be good stewards of the earth and worthy keepers of creation. Amen.*

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Text: Psalm 118:24

²⁴ **This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

You may be among those who begin their day with this verse from Psalm 118. Who knows what any given day will bring? This simple phrase offers a sure and certain start to a day that is likely to hold challenges, major and minor. We are reminded that God is ever-present, calling us to celebrate each new day.

Let's pray: *Almighty God, grant that we may greet each new day as a precious gift. Give us glad and grateful hearts as we celebrate our blessings in your holy name. Amen.*

Thursday, June 9, 2022

Text: Genesis 1:1-4

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good.

I love to read the first chapter of Genesis with a loud and dramatic emphasis on those first three words: **In the beginning**. As the creation narrative continues, the words recorded by ancient storytellers still give us vivid pictures life on earth coming into existence. Easter Vigil worship, on the Saturday evening of Holy Week, opens with Genesis 1, followed by another 11 stories, including the first Passover, the adventures of Jonah, the crossing of the Red Sea, Ezekiel's encounter with the valley of dry bones, and more. Through scripture, we become a part of God's story, from the beginning. What a rich heritage we share!

Let's pray: *Eternal God, we thank you for our ancestors in faith. Help us to learn from the stories that your faithful servants have passed down to us over the centuries. Amen.*

Friday, June 10, 2022

Text: Matthew 6, excerpts

25 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field...will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

34 ‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

Jesus packs so much into this short passage, pairing beautiful images from nature with a comforting message: Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Just reading these verses immediately soothes our troubled hearts. Jesus calms our fears and eases our anxiety. In turn, we learn to trust God’s loving care and become more mindful of our blessings, letting go of needless worries.

Let’s pray: *Loving God, help us to feel your comforting power. Guide us to increase our faith in your never-ending care, trusting in your mercy and grace. Amen.*

Saturday, June 11, 2022

“This is My Father’s World”

1. This is my Father's world, And to my list’ning ears
All nature sings, and round me rings, The music of the spheres
2. This is my Father's world; The birds their carols raise;
The morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world; He shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass; He speaks to me ev’rywhere.

- from a poem by Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901, ELW 824

I can still picture Viola Nordman, a founding member of Calvary Lutheran Church, leading us in this song to launch the Sunday School hour. Over the years, I shared the favorite hymn with my daughter, son, and children who attended Sunday School or Vacation Bible School in my congregations. Like no other, this song gives life to the sights and sound of creation in a way that is easily accessible to people of all ages. We are encouraged to listen as we are reminded that God speaks to us everywhere.

Let’s pray: *Father of Creation, open our eyes and ears to the wonders of your world. Lead us in joyful song as we join the music of the spheres, listen for your voice in the rustling grass, and shine with your light. Amen.*