

We Praise You O God for The Beauty of Creation

**You, Lord, created heaven and earth.
They are beautiful because You are beauty.
They are good because You are goodness.
They exist because You are existence.**

**However, they are not as beautiful or as good as You,
nor do they have existence as You their Creator have it.
Compared with You they are neither beautiful nor good, nor do they exist.**

- Confessions of Saint Augustine 11, 4



**From the east to the west;
from the north to the south,
throughout all of creation,
You, O Triune God, are perpetually present
giving life and love,
encouragement, creativity and grace
to all of Your creation.**

**You have crowned us with glory and honor.
To You we give our heartfelt songs of thankfulness and praise.**

Prayer

**My God, I shall run to another to be refreshed if I have been made by another.
You are all I possess, because You are my God. You are not only the Giver of
my inheritance, but the Inheritance Itself.**

The Beauty of Creation Bears Witness to God

Question the beauty of the earth,
The beauty of the sea,
The beauty of the wide air around you,
The beauty of the sky;
Question the order of the stars,
The sun whose brightness lights the day,
The moon whose splendor softens the gloom of night;
Question the living creatures that move in the waters,
That roam upon the earth,
That fly through the air;
The spirit that lies hidden,
The matter that is manifest;
The visible things that are ruled,
The invisible that rule them;
Question all these.
They will answer you:
“Behold and see, we are beautiful.”
Their beauty is their confession of God
Who made these beautiful changing things,
If not one who is beautiful and changeth not?

- Saint Augustine

God of All Creation

God of the ocean and sea! Bathe us anew with the wisdom from heaven.
Rivers and life flowing streams! Call us again to believing water,
Flooding and filling the earth with new life.

God of the wind and the breeze! Breathe in our hearts the Spirit of Jesus.
Voice and the presence of God! Guide us to hear the call of creation
Singing and dancing the cry of delight.

God of the forests and trees! Color our lives with love and compassion.
Source of all beauty and truth! Help us to live as shade for the weary
Hope for the broken and home for the lost.

God of the morning and night! Gift of our days with signs of Your promise.
Sunlight and darkness are Yours! In death and life may we know Your rising
Alpha and Omega: beginning and end.

God of the planets and stars! Power our dreams and lift us to glory.
Jesus, the Light of the world! Shine in our lives and be “God among us”
Building Your kingdom the city of peace.

- Martv Hauden. 1987. GIA Publications. Inc.

Psalm 8

O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!

You have set Your glory above the heavens.

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your hands,

the moon and the stars, which You have made;

What is man, that You are mindful of him?

and the son of man, that You visit him?

For You have made him a little lower than the angels,

and You have crowned him with glory and honor.

You made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands;

You have put all things under his feet:

All sheep and oxen, yes, and the beasts of the field;

the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,

and whatever passes through the paths of the seas.

O LORD our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!

Glory to You, Source of All Being, Eternal Word, an Spirit of Life. As it was, is now, and forever shall be. Amen.

You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power:

for You have created all things,

and for Your pleasure they are and were created.

- Revelation 4:11

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

- Genesis 1:1-2

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows forth His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night shows knowledge.

- Psalm 19:1-2

He has made every thing beautiful in His time: also He has set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God made from the beginning to the end.

- Ecclesiastes 3:11

Do you not know? Have you not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor grows weary?

- Isaiah 40:28

For thus says the LORD that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it; He has established it, He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.

- Isaiah 45:18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made.

- John 1:1-3



Reflection: Witnessing to the Resurrection: God's Caring for Creation

Scripture makes significant claims about God's creation: God created it; God calls human beings to the task of stewardship; human sinfulness has hurt creation; God heals what human beings have broken; God calls people of faith to care for creation.

The Earth is the Lord's! (Psalm 24: 1)

Creation is the handiwork of a loving God who saw all that was made and pronounced it "very good." God delights in creation and creation delights in praising the Creator. "Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!" (Psalm 150: 6)

Called to a ministry of care

God has given humankind a special responsibility to care for creation. Genesis 2:15 says the Lord God took the human and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and to keep it. A form of the Hebrew verb "shamar," meaning, "to keep," is also used in the Aaronic blessing: "May the Lord bless you and keep you" (Numbers 6:24). We are to nurture, sustain and care for creation the way God nurtures, sustains and cares for us.

The land mourns

Our relationship with God, with each other and with creation are all part of the same fabric. Pull any one thread and the whole piece begins to unravel. Human selfishness, ignorance, fear and mistrust have ecological consequences. The Bible is not hesitant to make connections between human sinfulness and the degradation of creation. "The Earth lies polluted under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant" (Isaiah 24: 5). "There is no faithfulness or loyalty, and no knowledge of God in the land. . . . Therefore the land mourns . . . even the fish of the sea are perishing" (Hosea 4: 1-3).

God enters creation to redeem it

God became incarnate in Jesus Christ, became part of the “stuff” of creation to heal and restore the relationships broken by human sinfulness. “God was in Christ reconciling the world” (2 Co. 5: 19). An early hymn praises Jesus Christ, the firstborn of creation, the firstborn from the dead, through whom God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on Earth or in heaven (Colossians 1: 15-20).

Witnessing to the resurrection

Christians are called to witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In our words and actions we are called to reflect the love of the One whose victory over sin and death was a victory for the whole of creation. “The church is not an elite body, separated from a doomed world,” writes New Testament scholar, J. Christian Beker, “but a community placed in the midst of the cosmic community of creation. Its task is not merely to win souls but to bear the burdens of a creation, to which it not only belongs but also to which it must also bear witness . . . The vocation of the church is not self-preservation for eternal life, but service to the created world in the sure hope of the world’s transformation at the time of God’s final triumph.”



Psalm of Creation

As I look to the east I praise You, my God:

from the rising of the sun You uphold my life;

when the sun goes down again I give You thanks:

You are my strength from beginning to end.

The whole created universe shares in our praise and gratitude:

for You have made all that is, whether seen or unseen -

hill and valley, tree and flower:

the earth in all its beauty is Yours;

earthquake and storm, wind and flood, keep us in awe of You:

the power of the lightning is also Your creation.

The workman labors with the sweat of his brow:

he shares in Your redemptive work;

the secretary and teacher work for You:

those who use their mind and imagination -

the executive making important decisions:

those who care for others and serve our needs.

All whose work is hard, toil with Your blessing:
those who find fulfillment in work can see it as part of Your purpose.

So can we all in more humble activities:
as cleaner, sweeper, gardener or child.

Those whom society rejects are in Your special care:
and those who have no place in a world of work;

without them Your creation would be incomplete:
Your plan includes our work and our unemployment.



Litany of Thanksgiving

Response: *We thank You, Lord!*

For the gift of all creation...
For the gift of the seasons...
For the gift of human life...
For the gift of our senses....
For the gift of appreciation of beauty...
For the enjoyment of leisure...
For the gift of relationships...
For the gift of gratitude...

Litany of Begging

Response: *Hear us, We beg You.*

That we will see You, O God, in all people...
That we will be good stewards of our land and resources...
That we will take the time to renew and refresh our minds hearts and bodies...
That we will take the time to connect with You through prayer and worship...
That we will realize Your beauty, love and presence around us in creation...
That we will use our creativity to build up Your kingdom here on earth...

The Canticle of the Sun

- Francis of Assisi

Most high, all powerful, all good Lord! All praise is Yours, all glory, all honor, and all blessing. To You, alone, Most High, do they belong. No mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your name.

Be praised, my Lord, through all Your creatures, especially through my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day; and you give light through him. And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendor! Of You, Most High, he bears the likeness.

Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars; in the heavens You have made them, precious and beautiful.

Be praised, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air, and clouds and storms, and all the weather, through which You give your creatures sustenance.

Be praised, My Lord, through Sister Water; she is very useful, and humble, and precious, and pure.

Be praised, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom You brighten the night. He is beautiful and cheerful, and powerful and strong.

Be praised, my Lord, through our sister Mother Earth, who feeds us and rules us, and produces various fruits with colored flowers and herbs.

Be praised, my Lord, through those who forgive for love of You; through those who endure sickness and trial. Happy those who endure in peace, for by You, Most High, they will be crowned.

Be praised, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death, from whose embrace no living person can escape. Woe to those who die in mortal sin! Happy those she finds doing Your most holy will. The second death can do no harm to them.

Praise and bless my Lord, and give thanks, and serve Him with great humility.



**Saint John Baptist de La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
help us to have a deep appreciation for all of creation.**

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!

**The heavens are telling the glory of God
And all creation is shouting for joy.
Come, dance in the forest,
Come, play in the field,
And sing, sing the glory of the Lord!**

WANT MORE INFORMATION???

www.ProtectingCreation.org

www.nccecojustice.org

www.usccb.org

<http://gos.sbc.edu/f/fuller2.html>