

Word of God – Word of Life

Psalm 104 – *Bless the Lord, O My Soul*
Abundance of, Beauty of, Care of Creation

Our core passage for May invites us to share in God’s delight in all his works Created in God’s image, we reflect God’s own sense of splendor and majesty. What God finds beautiful resonates in our own spirits; and we are not alone in praising God. *Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy* (Psalm 96:11-12). We are also called to participate with God in the care of creation.

Some ways to begin our praise and meditation are:

- Read the Psalm prayerfully and on the second reading make note of specific verses that grab your attention. Return to those verses for several days exploring the connections and images that come to mind.
- Choose a tree that you see every day; observe it’s coming to vibrant life, and join with it in praising God.
- Ask God to open your spirit and all your senses to the beauty all around as the earth is again renewed.
- Call to mind a place of wondrous beauty and/or treasured memory. Think of God’s immense delight in the beauty of that special place.
- Do an Internet search for *images of Psalm 104*. Select some favorites and share with family and friends.
- Observe and list the fellow creatures that you meet in one day.
- Pray daily for the health of the environment, both nearby and throughout the Earth, our home.

For reflection:

- *A great number of male animals, as all our most gorgeous birds, some fishes, reptiles and mammals, and a host of magnificently colored butterflies have been rendered beautiful for beauty’s sake.*
– Charles Darwin
- Scientists today are rethinking the extravagant splendor of the animal kingdom. Some engineering feats are impractical and waste energy. Brilliant colors may put an animal at risk.
- Which is the greater factor in hunger and starvation – creation lacks the abundance to provide enough for all or inequities in sharing, distribution and waste?

Word of God - Word of Nature

Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.- Martin Luther

For our first eight core passages we have concentrated on prayerful, heartfelt listening to God through the written Word of Life. Psalm 104 invites us to know God through his creation:

*The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.*



Psalm 19:1-4a

In Psalm 104 we learn that:

- God’s work of creation is ongoing
- God is honored by his works
- God imposes order, limits and patterns on creation
- All of life requires God’s ongoing attention for existence
- God abundantly provides the resources needed
- Humans and our fellow creatures participate with God in providing food
- God takes delight in the mystery, majesty, diversity of creation
- Our delight in creation is a vital aspect of our worship.

In verse 21 the Psalmist imagines the lion’s roar as a prayer to God for its food. Use your eyes, ears and imaginations to “eavesdrop” on the prayers and praises of creation.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
Psalm 98:4