

So, this first **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation** is this **Tuesday, September 1st**, and I hope you have had a chance to be thoughtful and reflective in preparation for this important day for all of us and for God's creation. Perhaps your prayer will be your own *Canticle of the Sun*...or some other prayer original to you...or will simply be you speaking out of the spontaneity of your spirit. Please know that whatever your prayer will be it will draw you, creation and God closer to one another and to your common destiny.

The psalms are deeply passionate prayer-songs to God arising out of the very real and sometimes complicated experiences that we human beings have. Here is, perhaps, one of the most beautiful psalms arising from the encounter between a person, God, and creation. Along with being a beautiful prayer-song that you could make your own, it can also be an invitation to deep reflection. Such deep reflection may lead you into the very presence of God where you passionately cry out the wonders of creation...which you will commit yourself to caring for to the same depths to which God does.

--Fr. Ray

Psalm 104

I

Bless the LORD, my soul!
LORD, my God, you are great indeed!

You are clothed with majesty and splendor,
robed in light as with a cloak.
You spread out the heavens like a tent
setting the beams of your chambers upon
the waters.

You make the clouds your chariot;
traveling on the wings of the wind.
You make the winds your messengers;
flaming fire, your ministers.

II

You fixed the earth on its foundation,
so it can never be shaken.
The deeps covered it like a garment;
above the mountains stood the waters.
At your rebuke they took flight;
at the sound of your thunder they fled.
They rushed up the mountains, down the
valleys
to the place you had fixed for them.
You set a limit they cannot pass;
never again will they cover the earth.

III

You made springs flow in wadies
that wind among the mountains.
They give drink to every beast of the field;
here wild asses quench their thirst.
Beside them the birds of heaven nest;
among the branches they sing.
You water the mountains from your
chambers;
from the fruit of your labor the earth
abounds.
You make the grass grow for the cattle
and plants for people's work
to bring forth food from the earth,
wine to gladden their hearts,
oil to make their faces shine,
and bread to sustain the human heart.
The trees of the LORD drink their fill,
the cedars of Lebanon, which you planted.
There the birds build their nests;
the stork in the junipers, its home.
The high mountains are for wild goats;
the rocky cliffs, a refuge for badgers.

OVER>>>

IV

You made the moon to mark the seasons,
the sun that knows the hour of its setting.
You bring darkness and night falls,
then all the animals of the forest wander
about.

Young lions roar for prey;
they seek their food from God.
When the sun rises, they steal away
and settle down in their dens.
People go out to their work,
to their labor till evening falls.

V

How varied are your works, LORD!

In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
There is the sea, great and wide!

It teems with countless beings,
living things both large and small.
There ships ply their course
and Leviathan,* whom you formed to play
with.

VI

All of these look to you
to give them food in due time.
When you give it to them, they gather;
when you open your hand, they are well
filled.

When you hide your face, they panic.

Take away their breath, they perish
and return to the dust.

Send forth your spirit, they are created
and you renew the face of the earth.

VII

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD be glad in his works!

Who looks at the earth and it trembles,
touches the mountains and they smoke!

I will sing to the LORD all my life;
I will sing praise to my God while I live.

May my meditation be pleasing to him;
I will rejoice in the LORD.

May sinners vanish from the earth,
and the wicked be no more.

Bless the LORD, my soul! Hallelujah!

