

The Wonders of Creation in a Simple Scriptural Prayer

Sirach 42:15-25 and 43:1-33

(Good News Translation, ©1992, American Bible Society)

Antiphon: *We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth, our bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive her life and refreshment from her waters.*
Laudato Si 2

Sirach 42:15-25

Now I will remind you of the works of the Lord
and describe the things I have seen.

The words of the Lord brought his works into
being, and the whole creation obeys his
commands.

16 The light of the sun shines down on
everything, and everything is filled with the
Lord's glory.

17

Not even to his holy angels has the Lord given
power to describe all his mighty deeds,
even though he has given them power
to stand unharmed in his glorious presence.

18

He sees into the oceans and into the human
heart, and he knows the secrets of both.
The Most High knows everything that can be
known and understands the signs of the ages.

19

He knows all that has ever been and all that ever
will be; he uncovers the deepest of mysteries.

20

He takes notice of our every thought
and hears our every word.

21

The orderly world shows the greatness of his
wisdom; he is the same forever and ever.
Nothing can be added to him, and nothing taken
away; he needs no one to give him advice.

22

All his works are beautiful, down to the smallest
and faintest spark of light.

23

All these things go on forever,
and all of them have their purpose.

24

All things are in pairs, each the opposite of the
other, but nothing the Lord made is incomplete.
25

Everything completes the goodness of something
else. Could anyone ever see enough of this
splendor?

Glory be

Antiphon: *The entire material universe speaks
of God's love, his boundless affection for us.
Soil, water, mountains; everything is, as it were,
a caress of God. (Laudato Si 84)*

(Sirach 43:1-33)

How beautiful is the bright, clear sky above us!

What a glorious sight it is!

2

The sun, when it appears, proclaims as it rises
how marvelous a thing it is, made by the Most
High.

3

At noon it dries up the land; no one can stand its
blazing heat.

4

The setting sun sets fire to the hilltops, like a
metal furnace glowing from the heat. It sends
out fiery rays, blinding the eyes with its
brightness.

5

The Lord, who made it, is great; it speeds on its
way at his command.

6

There is also the moon, marking the passage of
time, an eternal sign of the changing seasons.

7

The moon determines the holy days.

Its light grows full and then grows dim.

8

The month is named after the moon,
marvelous to watch as it grows fuller each
night, a signal light for the heavenly armies,
shining out in the dome of the sky.

9
The shining stars make the night sky lovely,
brilliant ornaments in the Lord's high heavens.
10
They stay in the places assigned to them by the
Holy One and never relax their dutiful watch.
11
Look at the rainbow and praise its Creator!
How magnificent, how radiant, its beauty!
12
Like a bow bent by the hands of the Most High,
it spans the horizon in a circle of glory.
13
He commands, and snow begins to fall;
lightning strikes to carry out his judgments.
14
The storerooms of the sky are thrown open,
and the clouds roll out like flying birds.
15
With his power he forms great masses of clouds
and shatters the ice into hailstones.
16-17
He speaks, and thunder twists the earth in pain;
the mountains are shaken by his strength.
Whenever he wishes, the south wind blows,
whirlwinds come, and windstorms from the
north. He sends the snow fluttering down like
birds, like locusts lighting on the ground.
18
We marvel at its beautiful whiteness,
and in fascination we watch it fall.
19
He sprinkles frost over the ground like salt,
and it freezes into thorny flowers of ice.
20
He sends the cold north wind blowing
and the water hardens into ice;
every lake and pond freezes over,
putting on a coat of icy armor.
21
He scorches the wilderness hills with drought,
and the grass turns brown from its heat;
22
but a cloudy mist restores it all to life
as the weather cools and dew appears.
23
By his wisdom he calmed the great oceans
and placed the islands there.
24

Sailors tell about the dangers of the sea,
and we listen to their tales in amazement.
25
In the sea are strange and marvelous creatures:
huge monsters and all kinds of living things.
26
Each of the Lord's messengers succeeds at its
task. Everything is held together by his word.
27
We could say much more and never finish,
but it all means this: the Lord is everything.
28
How can we find the power to praise him?
He is greater than all his creation.
29
The Lord is awesome in his greatness;
his power is overwhelming.
30
Though you do your best to praise him, he is
greater than you can ever express. Though you
honor him tirelessly and with all your strength,
you still cannot praise him enough.
31
No one has seen him, no one can describe him;
no one can praise him as he deserves.
32
Mysteries greater than these are still unknown;
we know only a fraction of his works.
33
The Lord made the universe
and then gave wisdom to devout people.

Glory be...

For reflection:

What today amazed you most about God's
Creation? What does it tell you about our God?
Spend some time with Laudato Si today and see
what action it is calling you to do?

For action:

Live simply. Take actions to reduce your carbon
footprint.

CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION

