

Prayers & Readings from March 24

Psalm 36:5-9

Your steadfast love extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.
Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the great deep;
you save humans and animals alike.

♪For with you is the fountain of life, in your light we see light.

How precious is your steadfast love!
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

♪For with you is the fountain of life, in your light we see light.

Reading from the first chapter of Genesis in the Hebrew Bible

God spoke: "Earth, green up! Grow all varieties of seed-bearing plants, every sort of fruit-bearing tree. Swarm,
Ocean, with fish and all sea life! Birds, fly through the sky over Earth! Earth, generate life: creatures of all kinds!

And there it was.

God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for the Earth
itself, and every creature that moves on the face of Earth."

So, God created human beings; created them godlike, reflecting God's nature of responsibility and love.

The Prayer of Jesus adapted from The New Zealand Prayer Book

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver
Source of all that is and all that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God who is with us here and beyond:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by people of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With bread we need for today-- feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another-- forgive us.
In times of temptation and test-- strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure-- spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil-- free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.
May it be so. Amen.

Prayer for Creation

Loving God, you are present in the universe and in the least of your creatures, surround all that exists with your tenderness. Teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe, where everything speaks to us of you.

Creative Spirit, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

We pray for all who are affected by fires and floods, earthquakes and storms. We remember especially those who have lost loved ones; those whose homes have been destroyed; those who now have no job or way to make a living.

Creative Spirit, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

We pray for the young people who are undertaking new projects or making commitments for the care of the planet, and especially for the students who are participating in the School Strike 4 Climate. Keep them safe, and give us the strength to support and cheer them on.

Creative Spirit, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

We thank you for being with us each day. Awaken our praise and our gratitude; give us the grace to feel intimately united to all that exists. Sustain us in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Creative Spirit, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

Concluding Prayer

May the God who established the dance of creation,
Who marveled at the lilies of the field,
Who transforms chaos to order,
Lead us to transform our lives to reflect God's glory in creation.