

Season after Pentecost
June and July Psalm, Scripture and Meditation

June 8

Many and Great “Dakota Hymn”

Many and great, O God, are thy works,
maker of earth and sky;

thy hands have set the heavens with stars;
thy fingers spread the mountains and plains.

Lo, at thy word the waters were formed;
deep seas obey thy voice.

Grant unto us communion with thee,
thou star-abiding one;

come unto us and dwell with us;
with thee are found the gifts of life.

Bless us with life that has no end,
eternal life with thee.

Many and Great “Dakota Hymn” / Lacquiparle by Joseph r. Renville (1942) paraphrased by R. Phillip Frazier (1929). Alt. Hymnal 1982, Hymn 385.

Scripture, Jeremiah 17: 21-22

Thus says the LORD:

For the sake of your lives,
take care that you do not bear a burden on the Sabbath day
or bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem.

And do not carry a burden out of your houses on the Sabbath or do any work,
but keep the Sabbath day holy,
as I commanded your ancestors.

Meditation, on Sabbath, by Br. Curtis Almquist

Sabbath-keeping is countercultural, and we are hard-wired to need it.
Claiming space for rest and re-creation is absolutely essential to being whole.
We don't rest in order to be more efficient.
We don't rest in order to work better.
We practice a sabbath rest in order to be fully alive.

Silence.

We are invited to consider:

*Consider that we honor God through our Sabbath - does that make it easier to stop doing,
and truly rest? What does true Sabbath rest feel like?*

June 15

Benedicite Omnia Opera, by Janet Morley

All you works of God,
bless your creator;
praise her and glorify her for ever.

Let the wide earth bless the creator;
let the arching heavens bless the creator;
let the whole body of God bless the creator;
praise her and glorify her for ever.

You returning daylight, bless your creator;
twilight and shadows, bless your creator;
embracing darkness, bless your creator;
praise her and glorify her for ever.

Let all who live and grow and breathe bless our creator,
praise her and glorify her for ever.

Scripture, John 13:34-35

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Meditation by *Henri Nouwen*

Isn't that what friendship is all about: giving to each other the gift of our beloved-ness?

Silence

We are invited to consider:

Where do we need to offer and receive the gift of our beloved-ness?

How can we treat the earth as beloved?

June 22

Psalm 8

O Lord our governor, *
how exalted is your name in all the world!

Out of the mouths of infants and children *
your majesty is praised above the heavens.

You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, *
to quell the enemy and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, *
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

What are mortals that you should be mindful of them? *
Mere human beings that you should seek them out?

You have made them but little lower than the angels; *
you adorn them with glory and honor;

You give them mastery over the works of your hands; *
you put all things under their feet:

All sheep and oxen, *
even the wild beasts of the field,

The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, *
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.

O Lord our governor, *
how exalted is your name in all the world!

Scripture, Galatians 6:9-10

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right,
for we will reap at harvest-time if we do not give up.
So then, whenever we have an opportunity,
let us work for the good of all,
and especially for those of the family of faith.

Meditation by *Wendell Berry*

Care ... rests upon genuine religion.
Care allows creatures to escape our explanations
into their actual presence and their essential mystery.
In taking care of our fellow creatures,
we acknowledge that they are not ours;
we acknowledge that they belong to an order and harmony
of which we ourselves are parts.
To answer to the perpetual crisis
of our presence in this abounding and dangerous world,
we have only the perpetual obligation of care.

Silence.

We are invited to consider: At this hour, how is God calling us to care for creation?

June 29

Psalm 4

Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; *
you set me free when I am hard-pressed;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; *
how long will you worship dumb idols
and run after false gods?”

Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful; *
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

Tremble, then, and do not sin; *
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

Offer the appointed sacrifices *
and put your trust in the Lord.
Many are saying, “Oh, that we might see better times!” *
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.

You have put gladness in my heart, *
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.

I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; *
for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Scripture, James 3:17-18

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield,
full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.
And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Meditation *Proverbs 3:19-22 122*

Focus on Wisdom and do not be distracted.
Watch the patterns of creation,
and you will awaken to grace and tranquility.

Silence.

We are invited to consider: How will we remain focused, to receive wisdom from creation?

July 6

Psalm 16.1, 5–11

Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *
**I have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord,
my good above all other.”**

O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; *
it is you who uphold my lot.

My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; *
my heart teaches me, night after night.

I have set the Lord always before me; *
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; *
my body also shall rest in hope.

For you will not abandon me to the grave, *
nor let your holy one see the Pit.

You will show me the path of life; *
**in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.**

Scripture, Jeremiah 17:7-8

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.
They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought, it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

Meditation by Mechthild of Magdeburg (13th century)

Fish cannot drown in water, birds cannot sink in air,
gold cannot perish in the refiner’s fire.
This has God given to all creatures:
to foster and seek their own nature.

Silence.

We are invited to consider: What has God given us today to help us be more fully ourselves?

July 13

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
**for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
**you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.**

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Scripture, *Wisdom of Solomon 6:15-16*

Resting your thoughts on Her [Wisdom] — this is perfect understanding.
Staying mindful of Her — this is perfect calm.
She embraces those who are ready for Her,
revealing Herself in the midst of their travels,
meeting them in every thought.

Meditation by *Elizabeth Drescher*

in the new light
of each day's questions,

I am never prepared.
Today, again, I have nothing
to offer but a handful
of old prayers, worn down
by the relentless abrasion
of doubt, and a fragment
of dream that plays on in my head
only half remembered. Still,
the doves coo and circle

through the pines
as they do when I pass
each morning. Their sorrow
is so nearly human, it rings
sweet with regret. By dusk,
the trees will bow down, and I, too, will
make my appeal, will find
again your mercy,
your solace.

Silence.

We are invited to consider: How will we embrace Wisdom's love this evening?

July 20

Psalm 42.1–7, 10

As the deer longs for the water-brooks, *
so longs my soul for you, O God.

My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; *
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

My tears have been my food day and night, *
**while all day long they say to me,
“Where now is your God!”**

I pour out my soul when I think on these things: *
how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God,

With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, *
among those who keep holy-day.

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why are you so disquieted within me?

Put your trust in God; *
**for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.**

The Lord grants his loving-kindness in the daytime; *
**in the night season his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.**

Scripture, Psalm 46:11 (BCP)

Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.

Meditation (*a prayer*)

Hidden God, ever present to me,
may I now be present to you,
attentive to your every word,
attuned to your inspirations,
alert to your touch.
Empty me that I may be filled with you alone.
Amen.

Silence.

We are invited to consider: How will I be still and trusting this night?

July 27

Week 8; Psalm 31.1–5

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.

Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O Lord, O God of truth.

Scripture, 1 Corinthians 2:1,4-5

When I came to you, brothers and sisters,
I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you
in lofty words or wisdom.
My speech and my proclamation
were not with the persuasiveness of wisdom
but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power,
so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom
but on the power of God.

Meditation, from 2 Corinthians 12:10b

Whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Silence.

We are invited to consider: How do we find strength manifested in weakness?
