

Living the Lutheran Lectionary

A weekly study of the Scriptures for the coming Sunday since May 4, 2014.

An opportunity to make Sunday worship more meaningful and to make the rhythms of the readings part of the rhythms of your life.

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Psalm 148

This Psalm is used for Years A, B, and C for the Second Sunday of Easter (Year C only for RCL). The Lutheran Lectionary also uses it for the Fifth Sunday of Easter in Years B and C. It is also used for the First Sunday after Christmas in the RCL lectionary for year B. The Historic One-Year lectionary does not use it at all.

In Judaism...

“Psalm 148 is recited in its entirety in [Pesukei Dezimra](#), the initial section of the daily morning prayer service.^[2]

Verses 1-6 are recited at the opening to [Kiddush Levana](#).^[3]

Verses 13-14 are recited by the congregation when the [Torah scroll](#) is being returned to the ark.^[4]

In the Catholic Church...

It is one of the [Laudate psalms](#) and was sung as part of a trio of psalms during [Lauds](#) in the [Roman rite](#). Around 530, St. [Benedict of Nursia](#) choose this psalm, along with Psalms [149](#) and [150](#), for the office of morning celebrated daily.^[5] That's why this celebration is called Lauds.

In the Liturgy of the Hours also present, Psalm 148 is recited for Sunday Lauds in the third week.^[6]

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psalm_148

Praise the Name of the LORD

148 **Praise** the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

² **Praise** him, all his angels;
 praise him, all his hosts!

³ **Praise** him, sun and moon,
 praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴ **Praise** him, you highest heavens,
 and you waters above the heavens!

⁵ Let them **praise** the name of the LORD!
 For he commanded and they were created.

⁶ And he established them forever and ever;
 he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away. [\[a\]](#)

⁷ **Praise** the LORD from the earth,
 you great sea creatures and all deeps,

⁸ fire and hail, snow and mist,
 stormy wind fulfilling his word!

⁹ Mountains and all hills,
 fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰ Beasts and all livestock,
 creeping things and flying birds!

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
 princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹² Young men and maidens together,
 old men and children!

¹³ Let them **praise** the name of the LORD,
 for his name alone is exalted;
 his majesty is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people,
 praise for all his saints,
 for the people of Israel who are near to him.

Praise the LORD!

2nd Sunday of Easter April 19, 2020

Octave of Easter or *Quasimodogeniti* or *St. Thomas Sunday*

Lectionary Year A – the Gospel of Matthew

“Psalm 148 calls for universal praise in some of the loveliest poetry in the entire Psalter, indeed, in all of the world’s literature. Composed of two equal stanzas (verses 1-6 calling everything in the heavens to praise the Lord and verses 7-12 issuing the same summons to everything on the earth) and a two verse conclusion addressed to everything and everyone, especially Israel, Psalm 148 is a masterpiece of balance. It uses the parallelism typical of Hebrew

poetry, and it augments that parallelism with the use of pairings that are designed to include everything bordered by the pairs: angels/heavenly hosts, sun and moon/shining stars, highest heavens/waters above the skies, sea monsters/ocean depths, lightning/hail, small creatures/flying birds, old men and children, etc..."

- https://cep.calvinseminary.edu/sermon-starters/easter-5c/?type=the_lectionary_psalms
Stan Mast Stan spent 41 years in parish ministry ...In 2012, Stan retired and then promptly un-retired to return to Calvin as Adjunct Professor of Preaching.

“Hallelujah” means “praise the LORD.” It’s the first and last Hebrew word in this Psalm. As the book of Psalms comes to a close, these last Psalms call on us to shout “Hallelujah” and praise the LORD. Notice this is not the regular word for “lord” but the special Hebrew word that’s translated into English with capital letters. Sometimes it’s transliterated as “Yahweh” or “Jehovah.” You see it in the letter “j,” “a,” “h” at the end of “Hallelujah.” This is the special name that the one true God has chosen to use to reveal himself. It means that he is the “HE-IS” God, the eternal “I-AM” who does not change.

That name alone gives us every reason to praise him and shout “Hallelujah”--and not only us. The Psalm calls on everything and everyone to praise the Lord. It starts in the heavens calling on the angels and heavenly hosts to praise the Lord. It calls out not only to the heavenly sentient creatures of God but also to his inanimate creations in the skies above: the sun, moon, stars... And finally reaches us humans from the most powerful kings and rulers to the youngest and least. Let all praise the Lord.

But this Psalm does more than simply urge us to praise the Lord and shout “Hallelujah.” It also reminds us of the reason why. And that’s the key. For you see, all the words of praise and shouts of jubilee mean nothing if we don’t know why we’re doing it. What’s more, the reason why we praise the Lord gives us not only the right motivation but also the content. It gives us /what/ to be praising him for. So, dear friends, take to heart the reason we praise the Lord and shout “Hallelujah,” for it gives us both the why and the what of our praise..."

- http://hancocklutheran.org/sermons/Hallelujah_Praise-the-Lord_Psalm148_1-14.html
Pastor Gregg Bitter St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hancock, MN

Second Sunday of Easter April 23, 2017

Lectionary Year A The Gospel of Matthew

“...The Closing Quintet: Psalms 146-150

The biblical Book of Psalms begins with a strong emphasis on laments—prayers from times of trouble (most of the psalms in Book I, from 3-41). The plan of the book as a whole indicates an increasing emphasis on praise, coming to a climax with Psalms 146-150. Each psalm in the closing quintet begins and ends with "Praise the LORD" or, in Hebrew, "Hallelujah!" This makes for ten "Hallelujahs" at the end of the book; then Psalm 150 alone adds ten more. You'd think the book was put together by a praise band that was relegated to a separate "contemporary service" in the church (or synagogue) basement or gymnasium!

But now to an unusual feature in Psalm 148 that I did not notice for a long time. It is the same feature already noted in "Joy to the World," namely the call for *non-human creatures*, that is, for nature to join in praising God. Professor Terry Fretheim has called attention to this

theme in the entire Old Testament; see the helpful insights in Chapter 8 of his recent book, *God and the World*.¹

Structure

The psalm begins by calling for praise "from the heavens" (1-6), continues with a call for praise "from the earth" (7-12), and concludes by tying "earth" and "heaven" together with a final call for all to join in the praises (13-14). It follows the typical pattern of the hymn with imperatives calling for praise (1-5,7,13-14), grounded by "for" clauses giving the reasons for praise (5b-6; 13b-14)...

...One can page through the "Praise and Thanksgiving" section of any hymnbook to find numerous examples of praise offered to God from non-human entities. We humans do not have a monopoly on praise. It appears that the often suspiciously regarded "praise band" could be moved from the basement to the main sanctuary, "loud clanging cymbals" (Psalm 150) and all!"

- https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=206 **James Limburg***
Professor Emeritus of Old Testament, Luther Seminary, Saint Paul, Minn Originally written for December 28, 2008, the Sunday after Christmas.

*James Limburg is an excellent source for understanding and appreciating the Psalms. His book "Psalms" as part of the Westminster Bible Companion series is available from the Westminster John Knox Press. "In this insightful, informative, and easy-to-read volume, James Limburg takes us into the world of the Psalms and brings their world to us. Limburg studies each Psalm and shows how the Psalms confront the issues of our contemporary culture, transcending time, and transforming our faith and experience.

Books in the Westminster Bible Companion series assist laity in their study of the Bible as a guide to Christian faith and practice. Each volume explains the biblical book in its original historical context and explores its significance for faithful living today. These books are ideal for individual study and for Bible study classes and groups."

- <https://www.amazon.com/Psalms-Westminster-Bible-Companion-Limburg/dp/0664255574>

2nd Sunday of Easter April 12, 2015

Lectionary Year B The Gospel of Mark

A Litany of Thanksgiving

Leader: God in Heaven, there is so much to thank You for, but there are some things that make the world such a very special place to live in. For parks, playgrounds, beaches, zoos, the rivers, the mountains, the woods, and the creeks.

Children: We thank you, God.

Leader: For rocks near the creek after the rains that make bridges to get across

Children: We thank you, God.

Leader: For polliwogs in the creek after water slows down; for the summer frogs

Children: We thank you, God.

Leader: For squirrels jumping through the trees with those long bushy tails

Children: We thank you, God.

Leader: For the smell of wet pine trees; for acorns when they still have their caps on and for pine cones to make things with

Children: We thank you, God.

Leader: For the happy faces of my dog and my cat when I come home from school

Children: We thank you, God.

Leader: For friends and family to share gifts with; for pals to tell secrets to

Children: We thank you, God.

Leader: For our church, our teachers, our pastors and all the people who work for the church

Children: We thank you, God.

All: And thank you, God, for being You and for loving me. Amen.

- <http://www.webofcreation.org/Worship/services/children.htm> Adapted from "Children's Worship," by Eileen Mottes, "Church Worship," May 1993. Used by permission of Education Ministries, Inc., Prescott, AZ



Second Sunday of Easter April 8, 2018

Year B – the Gospel of Mark

“And Heav'n and Nature Sing

It's always been one of my favorite Christmas carols. How could you lose with this one? The words are by Isaac Watts and the tune, at least according to some hymnbooks, is by George F. Handel. The combination of words and music is just right. Notice that the melody runs straight down the D major scale! Though we've sung it countless times and have heard it each year in churches and shopping malls, it's possible that we have missed one important feature of this carol. Consider the words:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

The lyricist is thinking big. All humans on earth are invited to welcome the Christ-King into their hearts. Then Isaac Watts ratchets the lyrics up another notch. He names two extremes to indicate the whole, asking heaven and also nature to join in singing this joyful song. To make sure that everybody gets the point, he repeats "heav'n and nature" three times, even having the tenors and basses echo it in a refrain. Once you've changed from a boy soprano or alto to a man tenor or bass, this becomes one of your favorite songs to sing at Christmas time!..."

- https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=206 James Limburg*
Professor Emeritus of Old Testament, Luther Seminary, Saint Paul, Minn Originally written for December 28, 2008, the Sunday after Christmas.

Second Sunday of Easter April 3, 2016

Lectionary Year C The Gospel of Luke

“The song is one and indivisible. It seems almost impossible to expound it in detail, for a living poem is not to be dissected verse by verse. It is a song of nature and of grace. As a flash of lightning flames through space, and enwraps both heaven and earth in one vestment of glory, so doth the adoration of the Lord in this Psalm light up all the universe, and cause it to glow with a radiance of praise. The song begins in the heavens, sweeps downward to dragons and all deeps, and then ascends again, till the people near unto Jehovah take up the strain. For its exposition the chief requisite is a heart on fire with reverent love to the Lord over all, who is to be blessed forever.”

➤ <http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/treasury-of-david/psalms-148-1.html> Charles H Spurgeon

2nd Sunday of Easter April 28, 2019

Year C – the Gospel of Luke

“A lot of praising has been going on before we get to the 148th Psalm, and now we sense the Psalter rising to a climactic crescendo, pulling out all the stops.

The Psalm tantalizingly suggests that a lot of praising was going on, not merely before the 148th Psalm, but before there were Psalms, or songs, or words or even people. St. Augustine pointed out the heavens have always been praising, but the Psalmist wished “to add his own exhortation” to that -- as if you come upon people doing a good thing and enjoying it, you like what they are doing and you say “That’s the way! Keep on doing it!”

All of creation, simply by existing, is a chorus of praise to its Maker. The sun marks the days, the moon the nights, time and space the evidence of a noble, good Creator. Stars, creatures, running water, snow, wind, trees, hawks and caterpillars: “All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made” (John 1:3). Both things bound by gravity and the canopy above form an all-enveloping circle of praise -- what Hans-Joachim Kraus called a “double choir.” ...”

➤ https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=1519
[James Howell](#) Senior Pastor, Myers Park United Methodist Church, Charlotte, N.C.

Fifth Sunday of Easter, April 24, 2016

Lectionary Year C The Gospel of Luke

5th Sunday of Easter May 19, 2019

Lectionary Year C – the Gospel of Luke

These are repeats of The 2nd Sunday of Easter

Hymnary.org lists at least 204 hymns based on this Psalm.

➤ <https://hymnary.org/browse/scripture/Psalms/148>

Earth and All Stars Lutheran Service Book – 817

“Let them praise the name of the Lord!” **The words of Psalm 148 exhort all creation to join in praise of God.** In a similar way, Herbert Brokering's hymn text, "Earth and All Stars," calls the universe to unite and "Sing to the Lord a new song."

In addition to addressing the natural universe that Psalm 148 catalogs ("mountains and hills," "beasts and cattle," "birds of the air," etc.), "Earth and All Stars" also calls on music, industry, construction, education, sports, philosophy—in short, the entire human enterprise to join the song. Each image is strung, bead-like, on the recurring phrases (based on Psalm 96) that thread through the poem: "Sing to the Lord a new song! He has done marvelous things. I too will praise him with a new song!"

Herbert Brokering, a Lutheran minister born in 1926, composed this text in 1964 on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. Knowing this, it is easy to understand the references to the academic world in stanzas 5 and 6. These same references make "Earth and All Stars" an ideal hymn for September, when our children and their teachers head back to school.

The hymn tune, also called EARTH AND ALL STARS but just as widely known by its other name, DEXTER, was written by the late David N. Johnson, then Professor of Organ at St. Olaf. DEXTER is a rousing tune, and, like Brokering's text, a modern classic: though just over twenty-five-years old, it has found its way into most American hymnals.

People of all ages enjoy singing this hymn. Even the youngest children can appreciate the vivid word-pictures in the text, and if they cannot read or remember entire stanzas, can still sing the repeated phrase "Sing to the Lord..." and the marvelous refrain.

In fact, singing the piece responsively is a good way to introduce the hymn to any age group. A choir or soloist can sing the stanzas, with the congregation joining in on the repeated phrases. Be sure to call attention to the wonderful melisma (many notes to one syllable) on the word marvelous in the refrain. It is a stroke of hymn-writing genius and a joy to sing!...

A hint: "Earth and All Stars" works best at a fairly brisk tempo, with a strong downbeat pulse, almost one-to-a-bar. Your final tempo will depend on many factors: the size and acoustical properties of your sanctuary, the size and age of your congregation, whether you use organ or piano, and so on. At United Reformed Church I play this hymn at a metronome marking of about $J = 138$. This seems energetic enough to move the congregation quickly through the many stanzas, but still leaves everyone enough room to breathe and enough time to think...

- <https://www.reformedworship.org/article/june-1990/hymn-month>
[Alfred V. Fedak](#) well-known organist, composer, and Minister of Music and Arts at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Capitol Hill, in Albany, New York.

Listen to this hymn at:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hh1-85tfy04> Earth and All Stars "MUSIC CELEBRATION SUNDAY", May 10, 2015 at First-Plymouth Church, Lincoln Nebraska. Alleluia Choir, Choristers, Te Deum Choir and Plymouth Choir accompanied by the Plymouth Brass and Plymouth Ringers.

An index of contemporary worship songs inspired by the Psalms Psalm 148

All Creatures of our God and King, David Crowder

<http://www.worshiptogether.com/songs/songdetail.aspx?iid=564108>

Almighty Creator, Mark Altrogge

http://sovereigngracemusic.org/Songs/Almighty_Creator/15

Awesome is the Lord Most High, Chris Tomlin and Jesse Reeves CCLI 4674159

<http://www.worshiptogether.com/songs/songdetail.aspx?iid=559862>

Come, You Thankful People, Come, Sam Hargreaves

http://www.resoundworship.org/song/come_you_thankful_people

Creation's Chorus, Greg Scheer CCLI 3276352

http://www.gregscheer.com/praise/creations_chorus.html

Creation Sings the Father's Song, Keith and Kristyn Getty CCLI 5333798

<http://www.worshiptogether.com/songs/songdetail.aspx?iid=1044317>

God is Great, Marty Sampson CCLI 3375851

<http://www.worshiptogether.com/songs/songdetail.aspx?iid=563325>

God of all (You are the reason), Ben Cantelon, Robin Hardingham

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFlhxwZBybw>

God of the Mountains (Creation praise), Sue Rinaldi, Caroline Bonnett, Steve Bassett

<https://www.weareworship.com/uk/songs/song-library/showsong/1919>

Great in Power, Russell Fragar CCLI 2582339

<http://www.worshiptogether.com/songs/songdetail.aspx?iid=1802603>

It's falling from the clouds (Cannons), Phil Wickham

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-DhXk5ojYHI>

Join the song (One day every voice will sing), Vicky Beeching, Ed Cash

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idCpVhAFFIo>

Let Creation Sing, Reuben Morgan CCLI 5878796

<http://www.worshiptogether.com/songs/songdetail.aspx?iid=1802256>

Look up to the skies, Judy Gresham

http://www.resoundworship.org/song/look_up_to_the_skies

Maker Of All Things, Tim Hughes CCLI 3359279

<http://www.worshiptogether.com/songs/songdetail.aspx?iid=569789>

My Theme Song is God's Love, Godfrey Birtill

<https://www.weareworship.com/uk/songs/song-library/showsong/2192>

O Praise Him, David Crowder CCLI 4158022

<http://www.worshiptogether.com/songs/songdetail.aspx?iid=565379>

More continued at:

➤ <http://contemporarypsalms.blogspot.com/2013/04/psalm-148.html>

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Praise the LORD! Hallelujah!