

Reading 1

Psalms 24.1 New International Version (NIV)

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.

Reading 2

Psalms 146, New International Version (NIV)

1

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, my soul.

2

I will praise the Lord all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

3

Do not put your trust in princes,
in human beings, who cannot save.

4

When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.

5

Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God.

6

He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them—
he remains faithful forever.

7

He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets prisoners free,

8

the Lord gives sight to the blind,
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,
the Lord loves the righteous.

9

The Lord watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

10

The Lord reigns forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord.

Reading 3

Psalms 8 New International Version (NIV)

1

Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory
in the heavens.

2

Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.

3

When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,

4

what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?[c]

5

You have made them[d] a little lower than the angels[e]
and crowned them[f] with glory and honor.

6

You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their[g] feet:

7

all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,

8

the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.

9

Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Reading 4

Job 12:10 New International Version (NIV)

In his hand is the life of every creature
and the breath of all mankind.

Reading 5

Psalms 23:2 New International Version (NIV)

He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

Reading 6

Jeremiah 17:8 New International Version (NIV)

They will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit."

Reading 7

Genesis 1 New International Version (NIV)

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

6 And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." 7 So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. 8 God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

9 And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. 10 God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. 11 Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. 12 The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. 13 And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. 16 God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. 17 God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, 18 to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

20 And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." 21 So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." 23 And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

24 And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. 25 God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

29 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Reading 8

Psalms 65:9–13 New International Version (NIV)

9 You care for the land and water it;
you enrich it abundantly.

The streams of God are filled with water
to provide the people with grain,
for so you have ordained it.[a]

10 You drench its furrows and level its ridges;
you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

11 You crown the year with your bounty,
and your carts overflow with abundance.

12 The grasslands of the wilderness overflow;
the hills are clothed with gladness.

13 The meadows are covered with flocks
and the valleys are mantled with grain;
they shout for joy and sing.

Reading 9

Matthew 10:29 New International Version (NIV)

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care.

Reading 10

Genesis 2:15 New International Version (NIV)

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Reading 11

Colossians 1:15–20 New International Version (NIV)

The Supremacy of the Son of God

15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Reading 12

Matthew 8:27 New International Version (NIV)

The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"