

# Light for Madrid



**DAILY DEVOTIONAL**

Dec. 2 - Dec. 13, 2019

## Monday, Dec. 2: Divine Ownership

Psalm 24:1-2 <sup>1</sup>The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; <sup>2</sup>for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

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*How might our treatment of God's world and those in it change when we consider that everything is His, not ours?*

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## Prayer

God of the mountains, God of the wilderness, all creation is yours. All creatures long to be brought into your holy presence. Through Moses you promised to make your people the means of that priestly blessing. Grant wisdom to world leaders gathered in Madrid today, and to us, that we may all fulfill that promise to be a blessing to the earth. Amen.

## Interfaith Power & Light

To get more engaged, connect with Interfaith Power & Light at: <https://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/>

All scripture texts are New Revised Standard Version. Reflection questions by Lisa Brenskelle, Lutherans Restoring Creation team lead, Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod of the ELCA. Prayers are adapted from [www.letallcreationpraise.org](http://www.letallcreationpraise.org).

## **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**

To read the latest reports on climate change from the IPCC, see: <https://www.ipcc.ch/>

## **National Climate Assessment**

To read the latest reports on climate change from the U.S. government, see: <https://www.globalchange.gov/>

## **Tuesday, Dec. 3: All Creation is Interrelated**

**Genesis 2:7 & 19** <sup>7</sup>then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. ...<sup>19</sup>So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name

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*Do you sense this connection to all the creatures of the Earth?*

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## **Prayer**

Holy God, all things live, and move, and have their being in you. You create Day and Night, Sky, Earth and Sea. You make Earth to bring forth plants yielding seed and trees bearing fruit. You set the sun, the moon and the stars in their orbits, and let them measure the passage of time. Out of the dust of the ground you formed us and every bird of the air and animal of the field, creatures of unfathomable beauty and variety. You make us in your image, with power and responsibility to fulfill the good in all the great web of life. Guide us, and those in deliberation in Madrid today, to carry out our responsibilities and exercise our power to support all your good creation. Amen.

## Wednesday, Dec. 4: Justice for All Creation

Isaiah 24:4-7 <sup>4</sup>The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers; the heavens languish together with the earth. <sup>5</sup>The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. <sup>6</sup>Therefore a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt; therefore the inhabitants of the earth dwindled, and few people are left. <sup>7</sup>The wine dries up, the vine languishes, all the merry-hearted sigh.

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*What is the connection between human sin and the degradation of the Earth?*

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### Prayer

God of the wilderness, all the wild areas of the earth cry out for justice, for restoration and preservation. May we be mindful of the creatures of the deserts, the oceans and the forests, that the habitat you have given them will survive and prosper, enabling them to live in abundance as you intend. Fill our hearts and minds with love for your earth and a burning desire for justice, that we, and those world leaders gathered in Madrid today, may work diligently to reverse climate change, for the salvation of all your creatures. May the whole universe continuously praise your saving grace forever. Amen.

## Friday, Dec. 13: Renewal of All Creation

Revelation 21:1-5 <sup>1</sup>Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; <sup>4</sup>he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." <sup>5</sup>And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."

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*Imagine a renewed creation. What do you see in your mind's eye?*

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### Prayer

Healing God, we look forward in hope to the day when by your mercy all things in your creation will be renewed and restored. You promised that your faithful people will be known as "repairers of the breach." Give us, and world leaders gathered today in Madrid, courage to lead all peoples in compassionate care of the earth, and to assist you in the healing of all its inhabitants. Amen.

## Thursday, Dec. 12: Creation Longs for Redemption

**Romans 8:19-22** <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

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*What role can we play in creation's deliverance?*

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### Prayer

Spirit of God, to you all creation looks eagerly in hope. Fountain of life, the universe groans in labor awaiting your deliverance. You have placed us within this earthly web of life as your children. Bless our labor on behalf of Earth our home. Bless also the labor of those gathered today in Madrid, that the outcome of their meeting may benefit all creation. Amen.

## Thursday, Dec. 5: Creation's Goodness & Purpose

**Genesis 1:20 – 24** <sup>20</sup> And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." <sup>21</sup>So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." <sup>23</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. <sup>24</sup>And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

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*How might contemplation of the goodness of creation affect our treatment of it?*

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### Prayer

Center and source of all good, nothing that exists escapes the embrace of your love. Help us to value each and every creature as you value them. By your life-giving Spirit, empower us, and those world leaders in conference today in Madrid, with the wisdom and courage to sustain in being all that belongs within your great web of life, that all creatures may abound as you desire. Amen.

## Friday, Dec. 6: God's Commitment to All Creation

Psalm 104:10-14, 16 - 21<sup>10</sup>You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, <sup>11</sup>giving drink to every wild animal; the wild asses quench their thirst. <sup>12</sup>By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches. <sup>13</sup>From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work. <sup>14</sup>You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, <sup>16</sup>The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted. <sup>17</sup>In them the birds build their nests; the stork has its home in the fir trees. <sup>18</sup>The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the coney. <sup>19</sup>You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. <sup>20</sup>You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of the forest come creeping out. <sup>21</sup>The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God.

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*Could our stewardship mirror God's care for all creation?*

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### Prayer

Sovereign of the universe, your first covenant of mercy was with every living creature. When your beloved Son came among us, the waters of the river welcomed him, the heavens opened to greet his arrival, the beasts of the wilderness drew near as his companions. Washed into new life through baptism, lead us, world leaders gathered today in Madrid, and all people in the way that leads to a renewed creation. Amen.

## Wednesday, Dec. 11: God, in Christ, Holds All Things Together

Colossians 1:15 – 10<sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup>for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

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*What image does Christ holding all things together call up in your mind?*

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### Prayer

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, who in your self-emptying love gathered up and reconciled all creation to the Father. Innumerable galaxies of the heavens worship you. Creatures that grace the earth rejoice in you. All those in the deepest seas bow to you in adoration. As we bow with them, open our eyes to understand that the earth and its fullness is yours, and to recognize our responsibilities for sustaining its gifts. Guide us, and world leaders in deliberation today in Madrid, in our stewardship of your good creation. Amen.

## Tuesday, Dec. 10: Responsible Leadership

Genesis 1:26-28 & 31 <sup>26</sup>Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” <sup>27</sup>So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” <sup>31</sup>God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

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*Does our dominion reflect the likeness of God?*

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### Prayer

God of revealing light, every dawn tells us how intricately your world is knit: Bare twigs snare the sun and clouds, the shifting winds weave a favorable atmosphere, moisture sifts through in mist or snow, and slowly penetrates the waiting soil. Cleanse our hearts as we repent of human pollution causing climate change; help your people, especially those world leaders gathered in Madrid, to exercise responsible leadership to preserve this your beloved creation. Amen.

## Saturday, Dec. 7: Creation as Source of Awe

Psalm 19:1-4 <sup>1</sup>The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. <sup>2</sup>Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. <sup>3</sup>There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; <sup>4</sup>yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

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*Is there any other way for us to perceive the glory of God than thru His creation?*

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### Prayer

How majestic, O Lord, our Sovereign, is your name on earth and in the heavens. All creation is aglow and warm because of the work of your hands. Kindle in us, and in those world leaders gathered today in Madrid, not only a sense of wonder at these marvels; but arouse in all of us a deep sense of responsibility to care for what you have made and done. Amen.

## Sunday, Dec. 8: Creation Praises the Creator

**1 Chronicles 16:31-34** <sup>31</sup>Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The LORD is king!" <sup>32</sup>Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. <sup>33</sup>Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. <sup>34</sup>O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

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*Listen. Can you hear all creation praising God today?*

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### Prayer

Sovereign of the universe, wellspring of life, fountain of redemption, we praise you. With sun and moon, winds and rain, light and darkness, we glorify you. With rivers and seas, wild beasts and cattle, and all humanity, we magnify you. Through the resurrection of your Son, you have revealed the destiny of all creation -- life in your mercy. He is the certainty that all the universe shall be raised up as your new creation. Fill us with your life that we may walk in the way of Christ as joyful servants of the earth. Grant insight to world leaders in deliberation today in Madrid, that they too may act as servants of the earth. Amen.

## Monday, Dec. 9: Compassionate Care as Humanity's Role

**Genesis 2:8-10 & 15-17** <sup>8</sup>And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. <sup>9</sup>Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

<sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

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*What one change can you make today that will keep (i.e. preserve) creation?*

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### Prayer

Creator of the universe, great is your mercy. At the heart of your new creation you have transplanted the very tree on which your Son hung in death. Sharing its fruit, we taste eternal life here on earth. With all your creatures, welcome us, and world leaders in deliberation today in Madrid, anew into the garden of your creation, and for their sake and ours, teach us again how to till and keep it. Amen.