

Psalm 148

Corpus Christi Year A
2nd Sunday after Christmas
Morning Prayer Sunday Week 3

Mankind, acting like a conductor, summons all of creation to offer praise to YHWH, and orchestrates the choirs into a cosmic harmony, the heavens first followed by the earth.

Part One. Heaven

‘Glory to God in the highest heaven’(Luke 2:14)

YHWH is exalted, he dwells on high.

– Isaiah 33:5

YHWH’s ‘host’ are the angelic heavenly powers powerfully carrying out God’s will in creation.

He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.

– Psalm 91:11

Bless YHWH, O you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
obedient to his spoken word. Bless YHWH,
all his hosts, his ministers that do his will.

– Psalm 103:20-21

It was my hands that stretched out the heavens, and I
commanded all their host.

– Isaiah 45:12

He spoke, and it was;
he commanded, and it came to be.

– Psalm 33:9

**¹Praise YH! [Halēlû Yâ]
Praise YHWH* from the
heavens; praise him in the
heights!**

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

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

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

**⁵Let them praise the name
of YHWH, for he command-
ed and they were created.**

Praise YHWH

⁶He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

I placed the sand as a boundary for the sea, a perpetual barrier that it cannot pass; though the waves toss, they cannot prevail, though they roar, they cannot pass over it.

– Jeremiah 5:22

Thus says YHWH, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar – YHWH of hosts is his name. If this fixed order were ever to cease from my presence, says YHWH, then also the offspring of Israel would cease to be a nation before me forever.

– Jeremiah 31:35-36

Part Two. Earth

⁷Praise YHWH from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm ... And God saw that it was good.

– Genesis 1:21

⁸fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command.

You make the winds your messengers, the flaming fire carries out your will.

– Psalm 104:4

⁹All you mountains and hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰All you wild animals and cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

¹¹All you kings of the earth and peoples, princes and rulers of the earth!

¹²All you young men and women, old and young together!

¹³Praise the name of YHWH, for his name alone is exalted; his glory* is above earth and heaven.

God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

– Philippians 2:9-11

Israel is to lead the chorus.

What other great nation has a god so near to it as
YHWH our God is whenever we call to him?

– Deuteronomy 4:7

We might reflect on the closeness of God:

YHWH is near to those whose hearts are broken.

– Psalm 34:18

For me it is good to be near God;
I have made the Lord, YHWH, my refuge.

– Psalm 73:28

Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear
him, so that his glory may dwell in our land.

– Psalm 85:9

You are near, YHWH.

– Psalm 119:151

YHWH is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

– Psalm 145:18

The kingdom of God has come near.

– Mark 1:15

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

– James 4:8

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

Praise YH! [Hal'êlû Yâ]