

Psalm 148

Laudate Dominum

1 Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord from the heavens; *
praise God in the heights.

2 Praise the Lord all you angels; *
sing praises, all you heavenly host.

3 Praise the Lord, sun and moon; *
sing praises, all you shining stars.

4 Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, *
sing praises, you waters above the heavens.

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord; *
who gave the command and they were created,

6 who made them stand fast for ever and ever, *
who gave them a law which shall not pass away.

7 Praise the Lord from the earth, *
you sea-monsters and all deeps;

8 fire and hail, snow and fog, *
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

9 mountains and all hills, *
fruit trees and all cedars;

10 wild beasts and all cattle, *
creeping things and wingèd birds;

11 sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, *
princes and all rulers of the world;

12 young men and young women, *
old and young together.

13 Let them praise the name of the Lord, *
whose name only is exalted,
whose splendour is over earth and heaven.

14 The Lord has raised up strength for this people *
and praise for all loyal servants,
the children of Israel, *
a people who are near to the Lord.
Hallelujah!

Psalm 150

Laudate Dominum

1 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord in the holy temple; *
praise God in the firmament of divine power.

2 Praise the Lord for mighty acts; *
praise God for excellent greatness.

3 Praise the Lord with the blast of the ram's-horn; *
praise God with lyre and harp.

4 Praise the Lord with timbrel and dance; *
praise God with strings and pipe.

5 Praise the Lord with resounding cymbals; *
praise God with loud-clanging cymbals.

6 Let everything that has breath *
praise the Lord.
Hallelujah!

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word, and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Hebrews 11:13-22

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, of whom he had been told, “It is through Isaac that descendants shall be named for you.” He considered the fact that God is able even to raise someone from the dead—and, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. By faith Isaac invoked blessings for the future on Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, “bowing in worship over the top of his staff.” By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions about his burial.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.