



The BEAUTY of GOD

Call to Prayer Leader: "What can compare to the beauty of God, who is the source of all beauty and perfection of creatures? Is it not from God that the flowers, birds, the stars, the moon and the sun derive their luster and beauty?"

Coste, Vincent de Paul, Correspondence, Conferences, Documents

Volume 13a, #43, page 160

Sign of the Cross

For the Beauty of the Earth (Sing verses 1, 2, 4)

1. For the beau - ty of the earth, For the glo - ry of the skies,
 2. For the beau - ty of each hour Of the day and of the night,
 3. For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 4. For your Church, that ev - er - more Lifts its ho - ly hands a - bove,
 5. For Your - self, O Gift Di - vine To our world so free - ly giv'n,

1. For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies:
 2. Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, Sun and moon, and stars of light:
 3. Friends on earth and friends a - bove; For all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 4. Of-f'ring up on ev - 'ry shore A pure sac - ri - fice of love:
 5. For that love from which will shine, Peace on earth and joy in heav'n:

1-5. Lord of all, to you we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.

Text: 77 77 77; *Lyra Eucharistica*, 1864; Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.
 Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872; adapt. by William H. Monk, 1823-1899
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Prayer with Elements of Earth (Take turns reading the numbered lines, please.)

1: Blessed are the **heavens**, for they declare the power of creation.

All: Blessed is the **earth**, our beloved home,
 for she is a planet of plenitude.

2 Blessed are the **waters**,
 for they gave rise to living things.

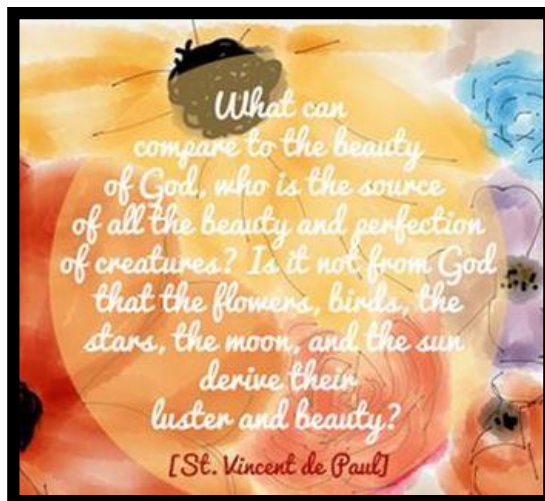
All: Blessed is the **land**,
 for it is the source of life abundant.

3: Blessed is the **air** we breathe,
 for it fires us to life and love.

All: Blessed are the **beasts** of the field,
 for they are glorious to behold.

4 Blessed are the **birds** of the air,
 for they carve a graceful arc in the sky.

All: Blessed are the fields of **grain**,
 the orchards of **fruit**,
 for they give sustenance, asking nothing in return.



Coste, 13a #43 page 160;
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<http://vinformation.famvin.org/vincentian-quotes/>



The Beauty of God (con't)

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5. Blessed are **those who dwell on Earth**,
for they cherish the privilege of living upon it.

All: Blessed are **they that mourn**, for they will be comforted.

6: Blessed are **they that rejoice**, for their joy is a blessing to all life.

All: Blessed are **they who protect the Earth and all her creatures**,
for their reward shall be harmony with the web of existence.

Rejoice, and be glad, for the earth and her people are one.

Courtesy of Peace with Planet Earth: A Prayer for September 21, 2014

Source: Beatitudes for Earth by Richard S. Gilbert

Reading from St. Vincent "... the world has a high regard for wealth, honor and charm. When, for example, people see a witty, nice, clever, gracious young woman, they really esteem these things. That's one of the maxims of the world. ... How could the Son of God appreciate the beauty of the world [?] ... He was beauty itself, since, as the Son of God, He's the splendor and beauty of God His Father! Furthermore, it's said of Him, ... 'He's the most beautiful of the children...'"

(Psalm 45: 3 NAB)

Coste, *The Maxims of Jesus Christ and Those of the World*, November 2, 1655, Volume 10 #72, page 113

Personal Reflection and Sharing

For what in God's creation are you most grateful? Why?

How do you usually express your gratitude to God?

Response **All:** (sing) Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

Text: LM; verse 1, Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

Prayer **All:** *The heavens declare Your glory, O God; the skies proclaim the work of Your hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens, You pitched a tent for the sun which is like a bride coming forth from the church, like a champion rejoicing to run the course. It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is hidden from its heat.*

(Psalm 19:1-6 adapted from NIV)

And so we praise and thank, O God, for the beauty of earth, of all your creation, of each of us, in the name of Jesus and through your Spirit. Amen.



Blessing Leader: *May God bless and keep you.*

May God's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May God look upon you and give you peace.

All: Amen, Alleluia! (Numbers 6:24-26 adapted from NIV)

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Prayer Texts

Psalm 86: 8-13 "I will praise you, my God, with all my heart."

Philippians 1:3-11 "Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God."

prepared for the Ladies of Charity by Sr. Carol Schumer, D.C., October, 2014