

## Readings for 28 May 2023

Excerpt from Psalms for Praying by Nan C. Merrill, based on Psalm 104:24-35

O You, who know all hearts, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have created them all;  
    the earth is filled with your creatures.  
We look to the seas, great and wide,  
    which teem with life innumerable,  
    helping to maintain the balance.  
O, that we might receive your gifts,  
    taking only what is needed with grateful hearts.

All of creation looks to You, to give them food in due season.  
When we are in harmony with You, the earth provides;  
    yes, a bountiful harvest to be shared with all.  
When we misuse what You have created for us,  
    we blame You for the famine and destruction that ensues,  
    and feel alienated from You.  
Even so, You continue to send forth your Spirit, and  
    the earth, though not without turmoil, is renewed.

The glory of the Radiant One endures forever, for  
    the works of Love are sure.  
You are ever-present to us, even as the earth trembles,  
    even as the mountains spew forth ashes and smoke!  
I will abandon myself into your hands as long as I live;  
    I will sing praise to You while I have breath.  
May my meditations be pleasing to You,  
    for I rejoice and am glad in You.  
May all who feel separated from You  
    open their hearts to new Life!  
Praise the Creator of the Universe!  
Bless the Heart of my heart, O my soul! Amen

Merrill, Nan C., *Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness*.  
(New York: Continuum, 2004), 215-216.

## Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

"In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."