

If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the remotest parts of the sea,

Even there shall Thy hand lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me !

If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me ; even the night shall be light about me.

Yea, the darkness hideth not from Thee, but the night shineth as the day ; the darkness and the light are both alike to Thee !

I will praise Thee ; for I am wonderfully made ; marvellous are Thy works, and this my soul knoweth full well !

Thine eyes did see my substance, while yet unformed and in Thy book was everything written ; my days were appointed before one of them existed.

How precious to me are Thy thoughts, O God ! how great is the sum of them !

If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand ; when I awake, I am still with Thee !

Search me, O God ! and know my heart ; try me, and know my thoughts ;

And see if the way of trouble be within me, and lead me in the way everlasting !

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*XXIV. Creation and Providence.*

PSALM 104.

*M.* Bless the Lord, O my soul ! O Lord, my God ! Thou art very great ! Thou art clothed with glory and majesty !

*C.* He covereth himself with light as with a garment ; he spreadeth out the heavens like a curtain ;

He layeth the beams of his palaces in the waters ;  
He maketh the clouds his chariot ; He rideth  
upon the wings of the wind.  
He maketh the winds His messengers, the flaming  
lightnings His ministers.  
He established the earth on its foundations ; it shall  
not be moved for ever.  
Thou didst cover it with the deep as with a gar-  
ment ; the waters stood above the mountains !  
At Thy rebuke they fled ; at the voice of Thy thun-  
der they hasted away.  
The mountains rose, the valleys sank, in the place  
which thou didst appoint for them.  
Thou hast established a bound which the waters  
may not pass, that they may not return, and  
cover the earth.  
He sendeth forth the springs in brooks ; they run  
among the mountains ;  
About them the birds of heaven have their habita-  
tion, they sing among the branches.  
He watereth the hills from His clouds ; the earth is  
satisfied with the fruit of Thy works !  
He causeth grass to spring up for cattle, and herb-  
age for the service of man, to bring forth food  
out of the earth,  
And wine that gladdeneth the heart of man, and  
bread that strengtheneth man's heart.  
The trees of the Lord are full of sap, the cedars of  
Lebanon which He hath planted ;  
There the birds build their nests ; in the cypresses  
the stork hath her abode.  
The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats, and  
the rocks for the conies.

He appointed the moon to mark seasons ; the sun knoweth when to go down.

Thou makest darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest go forth.

The young lions roar for prey, and seek their food from God.

When the sun ariseth, they withdraw themselves, and lie down in their dens.

Man goeth forth to his work, and to his labor, until the evening.

O Lord ! how manifold are Thy works ! in wisdom hast Thou made them all ! the earth is full of Thy riches !

Lo ! this great and wide sea ! in it are moving creatures without number, animals, small and great.

All these wait on Thee, to give them their food in due season.

Thou givest it to them, they gather it ; Thou openest Thy hand, they are satisfied with good.

Thou hidest Thy face, they are confounded ; Thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to the dust.

Thou sendest forth Thy spirit, they are created, and Thou renewest the face of the earth.

The glory of the Lord shall endure for ever ; the Lord rejoiceth in His works.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live, I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

May sin cease from the earth, and wickedness be no more.

May my meditation be acceptable to Him ! I will rejoice in the Lord.

Bless the Lord, O my soul ! praise ye the Lord !

*XXVII. The Martyr's Faith.*

PSALM 66, 129, 124.

- M.* Sing joyfully unto God, all ye lands ! Sing ye the honor of His name ; make His praise glorious !
- C.* Let all the earth worship Thee ; let it sing praise to Thee, let it sing praise to Thy name !
- Come, behold the works of God ! how wonderful His doings among the sons of men !
- By His power He ruleth forever ; His eyes are fixed upon the nations ; let not the rebellious exalt themselves !
- O bless our God, ye nations, and make the voice of His praise to be heard !
- It is He who preserveth our lives, and suffereth not our feet to stumble.
- Thou hast, indeed, proved us, O God ! Thou hast tried us as silver is tried.
- Thou broughtest us into a snare, and didst lay a heavy burden upon our backs ;
- Thou didst cause men to ride upon our heads, and we have gone through fire and water : but Thou has brought us to a place of abundance.
- I will go into Thy house with offerings ; I will pay Thee my vows, —
- The vows which my lips uttered, which my mouth promised in my trouble.
- Come and hear, all ye who fear God, and I will relate what He hath done for me !
- I called upon Him with my mouth, and praise is now upon my tongue.
- If I had meditated wickedness in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me :

But surely God hath heard me ; he hath had regard to the voice of my supplication.

Blessed be God, who did not reject my prayer, nor withhold His mercy from me !

Much have they afflicted me from my youth, may Israel now say :

Much have they afflicted me from my youth, yet have they not prevailed against me.

The ploughers ploughed up my back ; they made long their furrows ;

But the Lord was righteous ; He cut asunder the cords of the wicked.

Had not the Lord been on our side, now may Israel say,

Had not the Lord been on our side, when men rose up against us,

Then had they swallowed us up alive, when their wrath burned against us ;

Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our soul ;

The proud waters had gone over our soul.

Blessed be the Lord who hath not given us a prey to their teeth !

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler ; the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.