

## Scripture Readings

**Psalm 8** (*Translation by Pamela Greenberg, The Complete Psalms: The Book of Prayer Songs in a New Translation*)

God, our Upholder, how vast is your signature over all the earth. It reflects your glory in the heavens. From the mouths of infants and nurslings you have made a foundation of strength—to oppose those who oppose you, to bring the enemy and person of vengeance to a halt. When I behold your name in the heavens, the craft of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you fixed immutable, I think: What is a mortal that you should be mindful of him, offspring of flesh that you should pay her attention?

Yet you have made us only slightly less than God. You have encompassed us with glory and splendor. You allow us dominion over the works of your hands; you placed everything under our feet, flocks of sheep and herds of cattle, all of them, every beast of the field, all forests, fields and deserts. The birds of the sky and fish of the ocean, all that traverses the sea. God, our Upholder, how vast is your signature over all the earth.

### **John 15:5, a-c**

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.

**From Cantic of the Creatures by St. Francis of Assisi, 1225**

Praised be You, my Lord, with all your creatures;  
especially Brother Sun, who is the day, and through whom You give us  
light.

And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor,  
and bears a likeness to You, Most High One.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars;  
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,  
and through the air, cloudy and serene,  
and every kind of weather through which You give sustenance to Your  
creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,  
which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,  
through whom You light the night;  
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Mother Earth,  
who sustains us and governs us and who produces  
varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.