THANKING GOD for SPRING
The heavens declare the glory of God
and all creation is shouting for joy.

We pause and look at the new life around us this spring and we are reminded of
the presence in our midst of God our Creator. Blessed are You, O God for You
have given us this earth and its beauty. Glory to You, Source of All Being,

SCRIPTURE DANIEL 13:52,55–82
Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, praiseworthy and exalted above
all forever;
And blessed is your holy and glorious name, praiseworthy and exalted above all
for all ages.

Blessed are You in the firmament of heaven, praiseworthy and glorious forever.
Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all
forever.
Angels of the Lord, bless the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all forever.
You heavens, bless the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all forever.
All you waters above the heavens, bless the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all
forever.
Sun and moon, bless the Lord; praise and exalt Him above all forever.
Stars of heaven, bless the Lord; praise and exalt Him above all forever.
Every shower and dew, bless the Lord; praise and exalt Him above all
forever.
All you winds, bless the Lord; praise and exalt Him above all forever.
Fire and heat, bless the Lord; praise and exalt Him above all forever.
Cold and chill, bless the Lord; praise and exalt Him above all forever.
Dew and rain, bless the Lord; praise and exalt Him above all forever.
Nights and days, bless the Lord; praise and exalt Him above all forever.
Light and darkness, bless the Lord; praise and exalt Him above all forever.
    Lightning and clouds, bless the Lord; praise and exalt Him above all forever.
Let the earth bless the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all forever.
    Everything growing from the earth, bless the Lord; praise and exalt Him above all forever.
You springs, bless the Lord; praise and exalt Him above all forever.
    Seas and rivers, bless the Lord; praise and exalt Him above all forever.
You dolphins and all water creatures, bless the Lord; praise and exalt Him above all forever.
    All you birds of the air, bless the Lord; praise and exalt Him above all forever.
All you beasts, wild and tame, bless the Lord; praise and exalt Him above all forever.
    You sons and daughters, bless the Lord; praise and exalt Him above all forever.

HYMN
SONG of the CENTER
From the corners of creation, listen to the center where we stand.
Let all things be blessed and holy, all is fashioned by Your hand.
Brother wind and sister water, mother earth and father sky.
Sacred plants and sacred creatures, sacred people of the land.

In the east, the place of dawning,
there is beauty in the morn,
Here the seeker finds new visions
as each sacred day is born;
all who honor life around them,
all who honor life within,
they shall shine with light and glory
when the morning breaks again.
In the south, the place of growing,
there is wisdom in the earth,
both the painful song of dying
and the joyful song of birth;
as the earth gives up her life—blood
so her children’s hearts may beat.
We give back to her our reverence
holy ground beneath our feet.
In the north, the place of wisdom,
there is holy darkness deep,
here the silent song of mystery
may awake you from your sleep;
here the music still and holy
sounds beneath the snow and night
and in the ones who wait with patience
for the coming of the light.
In the west, the place of seeing,
there is born a vision new,
of the Servant of the servants
Who proclaimed the gospel true;  
let the creatures of creation  
echo back creation’s prayer,  
let the Spirit now breathe through us  
and restore the sacred there.

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**SCRIPTURE**  
**LUKE 12: 22–28**

I tell you, do not worry about your life and what you will eat,  
or about your body and what you will wear.  
For life is more than food and the body more than clothing.  
Notice the ravens: they do not sow or reap; they have neither storehouse nor barn, yet God feeds them. How much more important are you than birds!  
Can any of you by worrying add a moment to your lifespan?  
If even the smallest things are beyond your control,  
why are you anxious about the rest?  
Notice how the flowers grow. They do not toil or spin.  
But I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of them. If God so clothes the grass in the field that grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will He not much more provide for you, O you of little faith?

**REFLECTION**  
excerpt from SERMON on SPRING

"Arise, make haste, my love, my dove, my beautiful one, and come. For the winter is now past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers have appeared in our land."  
Song of Songs 2:10–12.

WE have familiar experience of the order, the constancy, the perpetual renovation of the material world which surrounds us. Frail and transitory as is every part of it, restless and migratory as are its elements, never ceasing, as are its changes, still it abides. It is bound together by a law of permanence, it is set up in unity; and, though it is ever dying, it is ever coming to life again.  
Dissolution does but give birth to fresh modes of organization, and one death is the parent of a thousand lives. Each hour, as it comes, is but a testimony, how fleeting, yet how secure, how certain, is the great whole. It is like an image on the waters, which is ever the same, though the waters ever flow. Change upon change—yet one change cries out to another, like the alternate Seraphim, in praise and in glory of their Maker. The sun sinks to rise again; the day is swallowed up in the gloom of the night, to be born out of it, as fresh as if it had never been quenched. Spring passes into summer, and through summer and autumn into winter, only the more surely, by its own ultimate return, to triumph over that grave, towards which it resolutely hastened from its first hour. We mourn over the blossoms of May, because they are to wither; but we know, withal, that May is one day to have its revenge upon November, by the revolution of that solemn circle which never stops—which teaches us in our height of hope, ever to be sober, and in our depth of desolation, never to despair.

July 13, 1852 by Cardinal John Henry Newman
PRAYERS of INTERCESSION
RESPONSE: Lord o Life, hear us and bless us.
That we will appreciate and enjoy the beauty of each season, we pray:
That we will continue to be people of hope, we pray:
That farmers will be blessed with a good planting and growing season, we pray:
That we will have a great respect for all of creation around us, we pray:
That this season of new life and birth will fill our hearts and souls with gladness, we pray:
That the Resurrection event will remind us that sin, death, gloom and despair are conquered and that Christ is our Eternal Spring, we pray:

LET US PRAY
As the earth once again turns to face the sun we rejoice in this season of spring. We give thanks, O God, that each day grows longer in light and that the earth has been liberated from the grip of winter.
We remember the resurrection of Your Son Jesus from the depths of death's decay in the tomb, we lift our hearts to You in gratitude. We thank You for the gift of a day and all the graces it holds.
We ask for the grace, O God, to live in a new way. Grant us fresh dreams and new visions. May this day come upon us like Spring herself, so that our hearts may be filled with hope.
May we thus taste more deeply the joys of simply being alive. May we find the countless hidden treasures that You have scattered throughout this day and season! May Your peace rest upon all the members of the earthen family with whom You have made us one. Amen.

A PRAYER IN SPRING
Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers to-day;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.
Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;
And make us happy in the happy bees,
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.
And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid air stands still.
For this is love and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfill.
Robert Frost

Let us now pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: Our Father...
HYMN JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE
Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!
All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee.
Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed,
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.
Mortals, join the happy chorus, which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o’er us, brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us Sunward in the triumph song of life.

A BLESSING
Blessed Be Your Name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name.
Every blessing You pour out
may we turn back to praise of You, O God
When the sun’s shining down on us
When the world’s ‘all as it should be’
Blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord.
Blessed be Your name.
You give and take away
Our hearts will choose to say
Lord, Blessed be your name.

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Saint John Baptist de La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
help us to appreciate the glories of God.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!

PRAYER for SPRING
"I live with a stronger hope
for the possibilities that lie hidden
within things, situations and persons"
Father Charles Cummings, OCSO."