When Morning Dawns and Evening Fades

TUNE: I Sing the Mighty Power of God (ELLACOMBE)

Psalm 65:8-13



Alt. Tune: FOREST GREEN
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TOPICS: Creator; Praise & Worship; Eternal Life; God's Love

LEAD-IN: Psalm 65 says,

"Where morning dawns and evening fades

you call forth songs of joy.

You care for the land and water it;

you enrich it abundantly...

You crown the year with your bounty...
The grasslands of the desert overflow;
the hills are clothed with gladness...
They shout for joy and sing."

(Psalm 65:8-13, NIV)

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

Creation's Prayer

All you have made will praise you, O Lord. (Psalm 145:10, NIV)

On a Saturday morning in spring I was trekking through woods near my home. At one point, a dead tree caught my eye. It was taller than the green trees around it, and its branches were high, close to the trunk and pointing upward. Against the clear blue sky, the tree seemed to stand in solemn silence, lifting praise to God in an endless liturgy.

That one glimpse helped me see again that all creation is God's temple, quietly but constantly reminding us that He is here; He is great, beyond our imaginations; He is love--He lavishes himself upon us, holding nothing back.

When I look at creation and believe that He shaped it all for His purposes, I realize I am surrounded by many liturgies to God. Each tells us about Him in ways that are more universal, more lasting, and more tangible than human language. I look into the night sky and am awestruck by His vastness. I swing through the round of day and night, season after season, and experience His unchanging faithfulness. The incredible network of life that packs every layer of our world, from water drops to endless oceans, paints Him as a fountain of rich, unbounded life. And every breath I take reminds me that He shares His eternal life, himself, with me.

I live in a natural world that stands in a constant attitude of prayer to God. Its attitude is dependence:

All look to you to give them their food at the proper time. . . . When you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things. (Psalm 104:27-28, NIV)

Creation's attitude is praise:

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. (Psalm 19:1, NIV)

Creation reminds me that the purest faith, the most profound prayer, the deepest worship we offer God is not expressed in words. Such prayer is expressed in being and doing. It is not heard in church services or read in books. It is seen in the faithful lives of His people, living to God and for God and in God, day after day, age after age.

I want to be part of that prayer. I want my whole life to sing trust and praise and love to Him, faithfully and constantly, forever and ever.

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