

## **GATHERING HYMN: “For the Beauty of the Earth”**

1. For the beauty of the earth, For the beauty of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,

*Chorus:* Lord of all, to You we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.

2. For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, sun and moon, and stars  
of light, *Chorus*

3. For the joy of human love-- Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts  
and mild, *Chorus*

**CALL TO PRAYER:** St. Alphonsus wrote, “In the heavens above we observe the stars with their orderly movements. We see the sun in swift movement, whose rotation divides the day from night and the seasons from one another. We see the moon, which speeds along as well, though less rapidly. It illumines the night for travellers and helps many things by its beneficial influence. We see the earth dressed in trees and grasses which produce, in due time, fruits, grains, plants, metals and so many other necessary and useful things for human life. The earth is made up of plains, of mountains, of forests, of rivers and fountains, all of which serve to form a home for all. Human beings, animals, plants, the skies, the planets, the seas and everything that we can see all demonstrate clearly the existence of the God who has created them all, as the Scriptures testify. We read in the book of Wisdom (Wisdom 13:5), “.. from the greatness and beauty of created things, their original author is seen.”

## **PSALM 19 (recited antiphonally)**

**Refrain:** Lord, You have the words of everlasting life.

The heavens are telling your glory, O God;  
and the firmament proclaims your handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;  
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens you have set a tent for the sun,  
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,  
and, like a strong runner, runs its course with joy.  
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them;  
and nothing is hidden from its heat.

Your law, O LORD, is perfect, reviving the soul;  
Your decrees are sure, making wise the simple;  
Your precepts, O LORD, are right, rejoicing the heart;

Your commandments, O LORD, are clear. enlightening the eyes;  
the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring for ever;  
Your ordinances, O LORD, are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Glory be...

**Refrain:** Lord, You have the words of everlasting life.

## **INTERCESSIONS**

**Presider:** Our prayers give voice to the longing of all creation for completion. Let us embrace all of creation as we pray today.

**Intercessor:** We pray for the grace of the North, the grace to believe that life continues hidden under frozen earth, the grace

to wait in persevering hope for the coming of Spring; for the grace to use the times of darkness for becoming quieter and going deeper.

**All:** We pray for the grace of the North, the grace of those who have met God in the dark night, who persevered in the face of failure, who brought love to cold hearts.

**Intercessor:** We pray for the grace of the East, the place of the rising sun, the grace to believe in new beginnings, the grace not to be threatened by what is different, the grace to look hopefully for the dawn.

**All:** We pray for the grace of the East, the grace of our founders, who brought to birth something new in the Church and the world, often amid opposition.

**Intercessor:** We pray for the grace of the South, the place of warmth and growth, of vibrant life and exuberance.

**All:** We pray for the grace of the mystics and saints who had insight into the abundance of God. We pray for their ability to nourish growth and encourage change.

**Intercessor:** We pray for the grace of the West, the direction of the setting sun, the place of transformation. We pray for the wisdom to know when to let go.

**All:** We pray for the grace of our founders, who knew that death leads to resurrection.

**Presider:** I invite you to place your hand over your heart, and to remember the words of St. Alphonsus, who said, "Heaven is the human heart." May we share the love of God, that dwells in every human heart, with all of creation. Together, we pray as Jesus taught us:

**OUR FATHER**

**BLESSING AND SIGN OF PEACE**

## EVENING PRAYER ST. ALPHONSUS AND CREATION



**FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2018  
REDEMPTORIST ASSOCIATES**