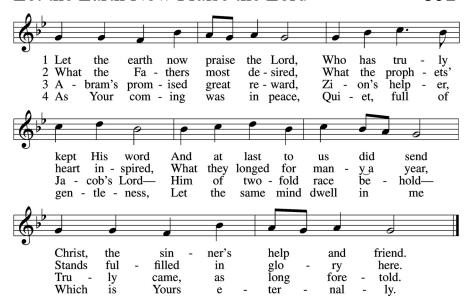
Week 4 • Sunday



Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

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- 5 Bruise for me the serpent's head That, set free from doubt and dread, I may cling to You in faith, Safely kept through life and death.
- 6 Then when You will come again
 As the glorious king to reign,
 I with joy will see Your face,
 Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Tune and text: Public domain

"Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

This hymn calls for praise for all that the Lord did to save mankind. The opening phrase reflects Psalm 148:1-5: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts! Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the LORD!

In the exuberant language of the psalmist, all parts of creation—even its inanimate elements—join the human chorus to celebrate the goodness of God in creation, blessing, and redemption. They are to praise the Lord because he has created them and made their existence secure. We, too, join in that worship of the Lord of all creation.

The rest of verse 1 outlines the reasons for such wholehearted adoration. The key phrase is "kept His word." It is explained in verse 2, which tells of all the prophecies that were fulfilled perfectly through Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Verse 3 reaches back to the patriarchs, showing how promises to them were fulfilled—and fulfilled for us, their children—by raising up Jesus.

Verse 4 portrays the manner in which Jesus will come to save the world from sin. Christ came in utmost humility, not like some cruel, mighty warrior king. His gentleness dwells in us and will do so into eternity.

Jesus' softness did not keep him from doing his work of destroying the power of the devil. This is something which we can hang onto through the faith in us. This faith allows us to live boldly and safely (verse 5).

Verse 6 points to the second coming of Christ, which will be a glorious event. We can only imagine what it will be like to see Jesus face to face. All this is made possible by God's grace.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for allowing us to join the whole creation in adoring you for all you have done and keep on doing for us. Thank you for your gentle yet powerful ministry here on earth. Keep us safe through all of life and death. Amen.