

Prayer for the day, Monday 20 July 2020

A welsh prayer from the Lion Prayer Collection

Glorious God, I give you greeting!
Let the church and chancel praise you,
Let the plain and hillside praise you,
Let the dark and daylight praise you,
Let the birds and honeybees praise you,
Let the male and female praise you,
And I shall praise you, Lord of glory:
Glorious Lord, I give you greeting!

But how should we praise God?

This next prayer is Jewish and gives us an idea of the impossibility of giving God his rightful tribute.

If my lips could sing as many songs
as there are waves in the sea:
if my tongue could sing as many hymns
as there are ocean billows:
if my mouth filled the whole firmament with praise;
if my face
shone like the sun and moon together,
if my hands
were to hover in the sky like powerful eagles
and my feet ran across mountains as swiftly as the deer;
all that would not be enough
to pay you fitting tribute
O Lord my God.

And yet, the Bible tells us that God does not want extravagant praise or spectacular promises – what he wants is for us to, act justly, be merciful and to walk humbly in his company, for we are all in all to him and he wants only that he, and our neighbour, should be all in all to us.