

WHO GOD IS IN RELATION TO CREATION

From the opening chapters of Genesis where God speaks creation into being to the closing pages of Revelation where God comes to dwell among us, the Bible bears witness to God's acting in time and space. Praise is our witness and recognition of God's presence in our midst. *The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible* says, "Praise is motivated by gratitude for God's actions in the world (especially the more expansive ones), wonder and awe at God's qualities of creativeness, justice, and everlasting love, and joy over God's saving actions" (vol. 4, 578).

Praise involves seeing ourselves and our world as part of God's creation. It acknowledges who God is in relation to the world around us. We have chosen seven passages to communicate the various expressions of praise we encounter in scripture. Use the following prayers and meditations to express the gratitude, awe, and joy that lie at the heart of the biblical concept of praise.

ANOTHER BEAD, ANOTHER PRAYER

PRAISING GOD'S GLORY

Winged creatures were stationed around him. Each had six wings: with two they veiled their faces, with two their feet, and with two they flew about. They shouted to each other, saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of heavenly forces! All the earth is filled with God's glory! The doorframe shook at the sound of their shouting, and the house was filled with smoke.

—ISAIAH 6:2-4

Isaiah's vision of God begins with the praise of the angels around God's throne. Witnessing praise invites us to join in praise. The devotion invites us to see our praise of God in union with the praise of the angels that Isaiah witnessed. The meditation focuses on the hymn of holiness the angels sing.

Devotion

Cross: Holy God, heaven and earth are filled with your glory.

Invitatory bead: Let my praise be united with that of the angels as we proclaim that

Resurrection bead: you are holy, holy, holy. Amen.

1st cruciform bead: Lord, you sit enthroned on the praises of the angels.

Prayers of Praise

Week beads, set 1: Use each bead to listen to the praises of the angels.

2nd cruciform bead: God of light, I bow with the angels before your glory.

Week beads, set 2: Use each bead to show reverence to God.

3rd cruciform bead: God of holiness, I join my voice with the praise of the angels.

Week beads, set 3: Use each bead to join with the angels in praising God.

4th cruciform bead: Mighty God, let the earth shake with the sound of my praise.

Week beads, set 4: Use each bead to listen to the earth as it shakes from the sound of your praise.

Resurrection bead: Glory be to you,

Invitatory bead: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

Cross: one God forever and ever, filling the earth with your glory.

Meditation

With each bead: Lord, you are holy, holy, holy.